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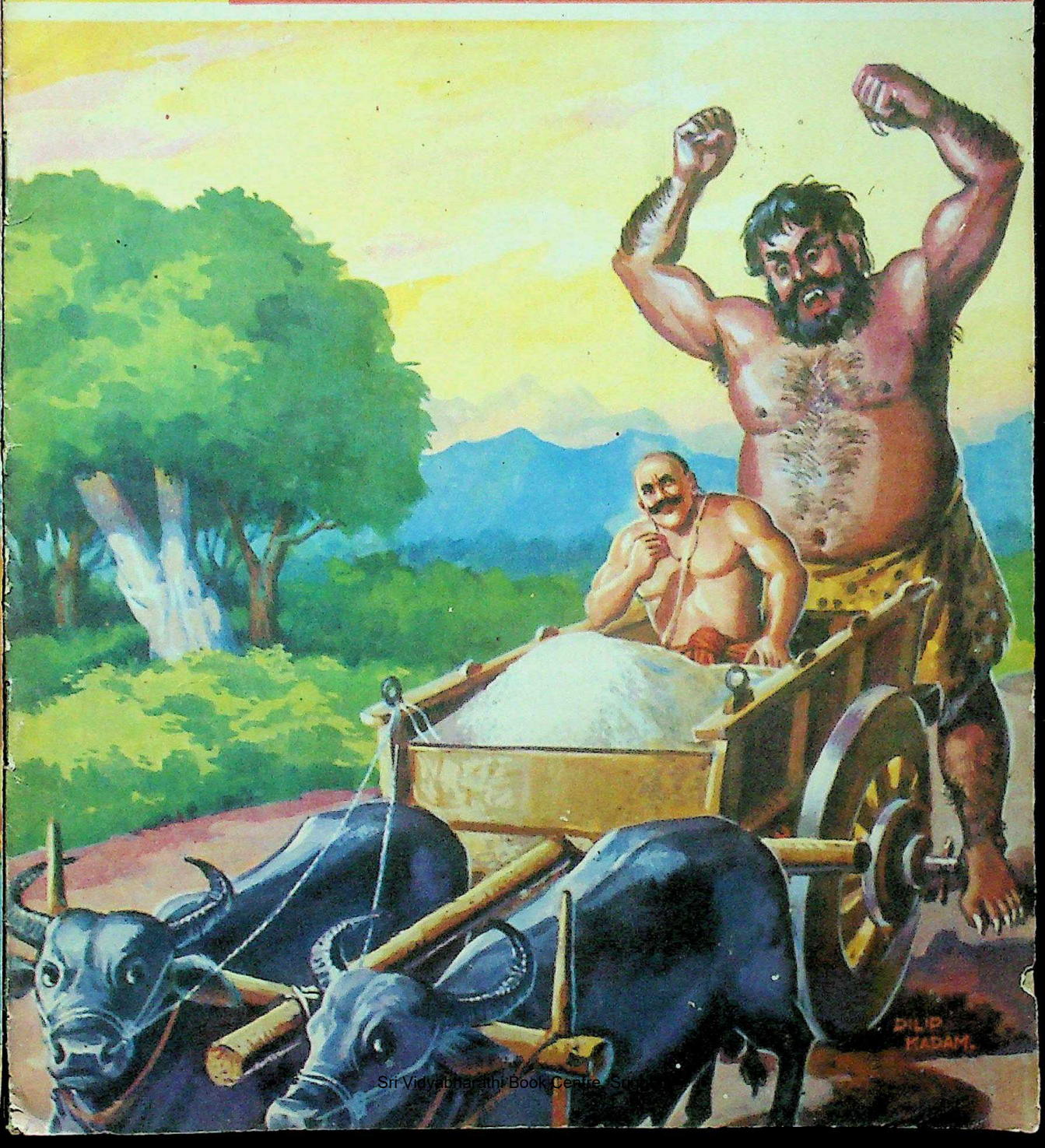
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No. 347 Rs. 4/-

Mahabharata—10

The Pandavas at EKACHAKRA



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MAHABHARATA

The Mahabharata is the longest epic known to man. It is also what may be called the total epic because, besides being a literary classic, it is a supreme work of philosophy and an exhaustive manual of morals and manners.

The origin of the Mahabharata is shrouded in mystery. Countless scholars have pried into the work to discover the personality of its author, Veda Vyasa, to pin down its date of composition, and to analyse its historical veracity. But doubts still persist on all these counts.

Was it possible for one person to compose over a hundred thousand verses? Handed down by oral tradition, was the Mahabharata written down in 800 B.C. or 600 B.C. or 300 B.C.? Can the levels of Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware, or the names of present-day cities and plains, or the radio-carbon tests of excavated materials, vouch for its historicity? There is no conclusive answer.

The core of the tale – the feud between the princely cousins, the Pandavas and the Kauravas, leading to the eighteen-day-long bloody war – must have had its roots in some real event. The text with its available recensions points to three oral versions : the first as recited by Veda Vyasa himself, the next as recited by his disciple Vaishampayana to Janamejaya, and the third as narrated again by one Sauti, who had heard Vaishampayana's recital. Additions and interpolations must have crept in at various times, till the advent of the printing-press and standard editions.

Amar Chitra Katha has already presented many popular stories from the Mahabharata, chosen for their emotional and dramatic appeal and often modified to suit the Chitra Katha mode.

The current series of 60 volumes, on the other hand, faithfully follows the original Sanskrit text even as it is condensed.

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Mahabharata-10

THE PANDAVAS AT EKACHAKRA

VEDA VYASA'S EPIC ON THE BHARATA RACE WAS FIRST RECITED IN PUBLIC, BY HIS DISCIPLE VAISHAMPAYANA, AT THE BEHEST OF THE AGELESS SEER VYASA HIMSELF.

THE RECITAL TOOK PLACE IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF KING JANAMEJAYA— GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE GRANDSON OF VYASA— AND THE MANY LEARNED SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA SATRA*.

THE NINTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S MAHABHARATA NARRATED THE ADVENTURES OF THE PANDAVAS AFTER THEIR ESCAPE FROM VARANAVATA. IT CONCLUDED WITH THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE HOUSE OF A BRAHMANA IN EKACHAKRA, A NEARBY TOWN.

* 12-YEAR-LONG SNAKE SACRIFICE

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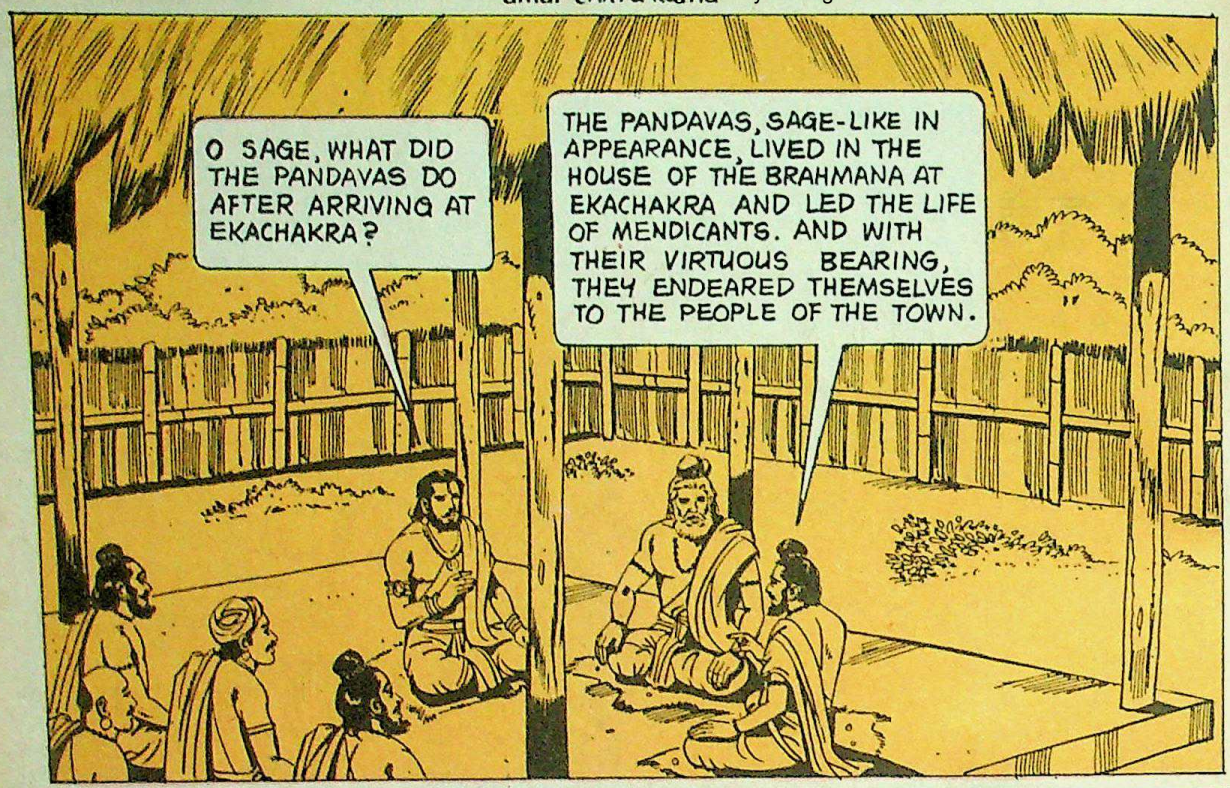

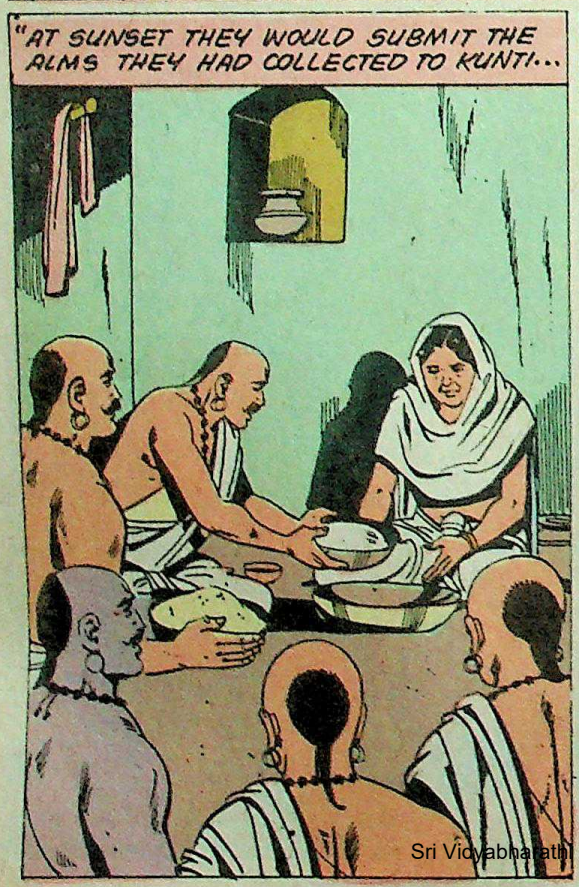

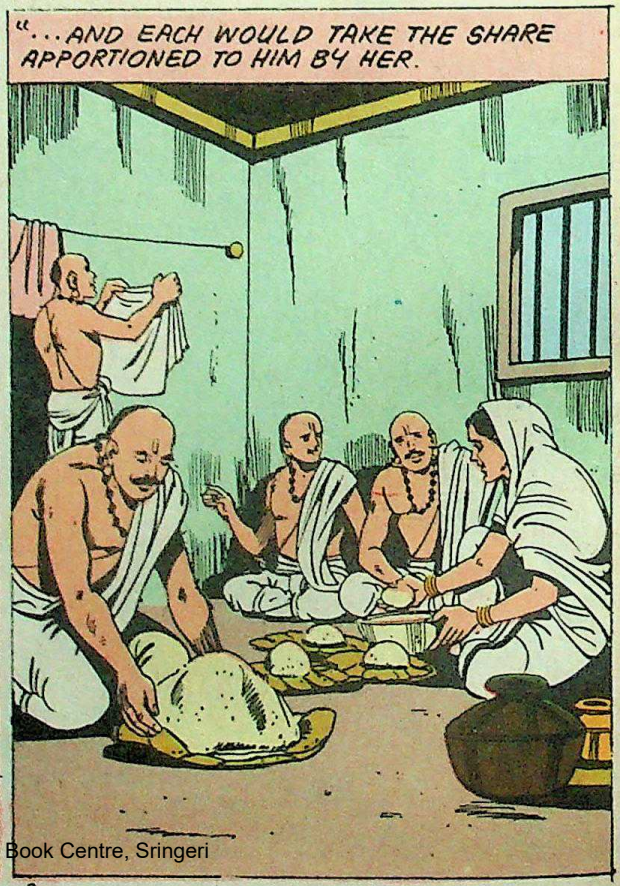

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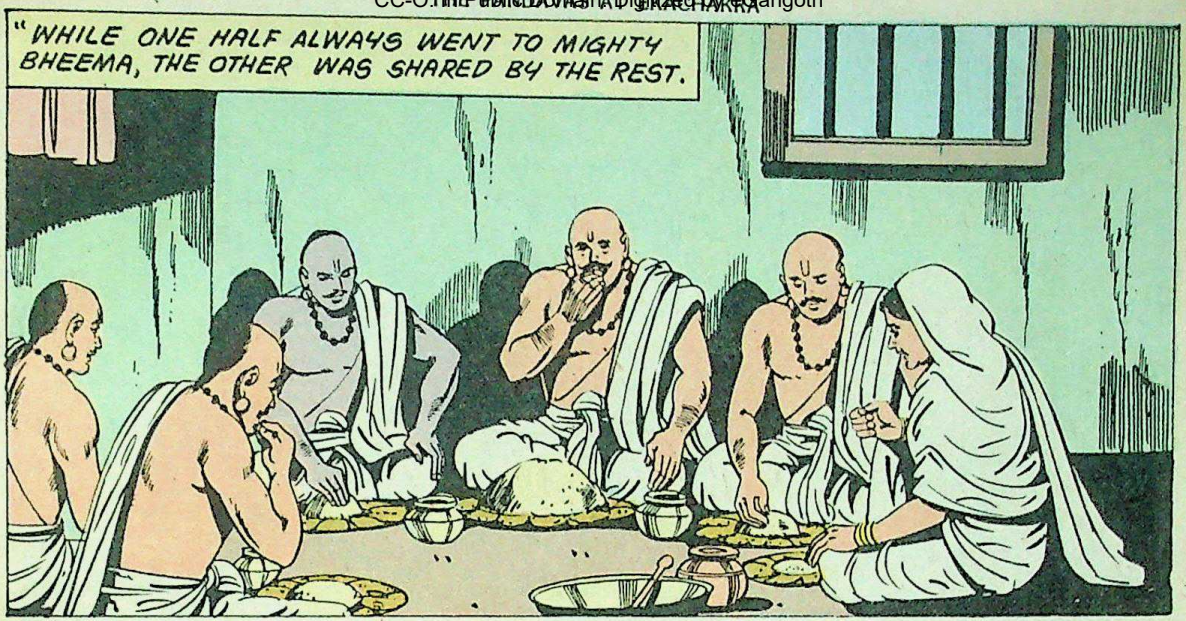

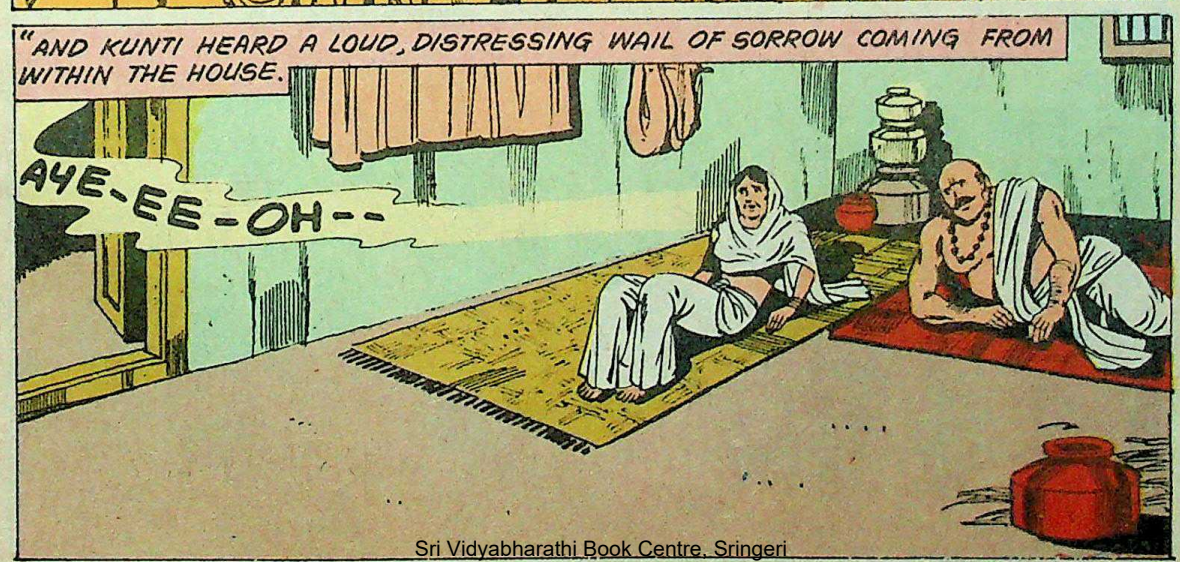

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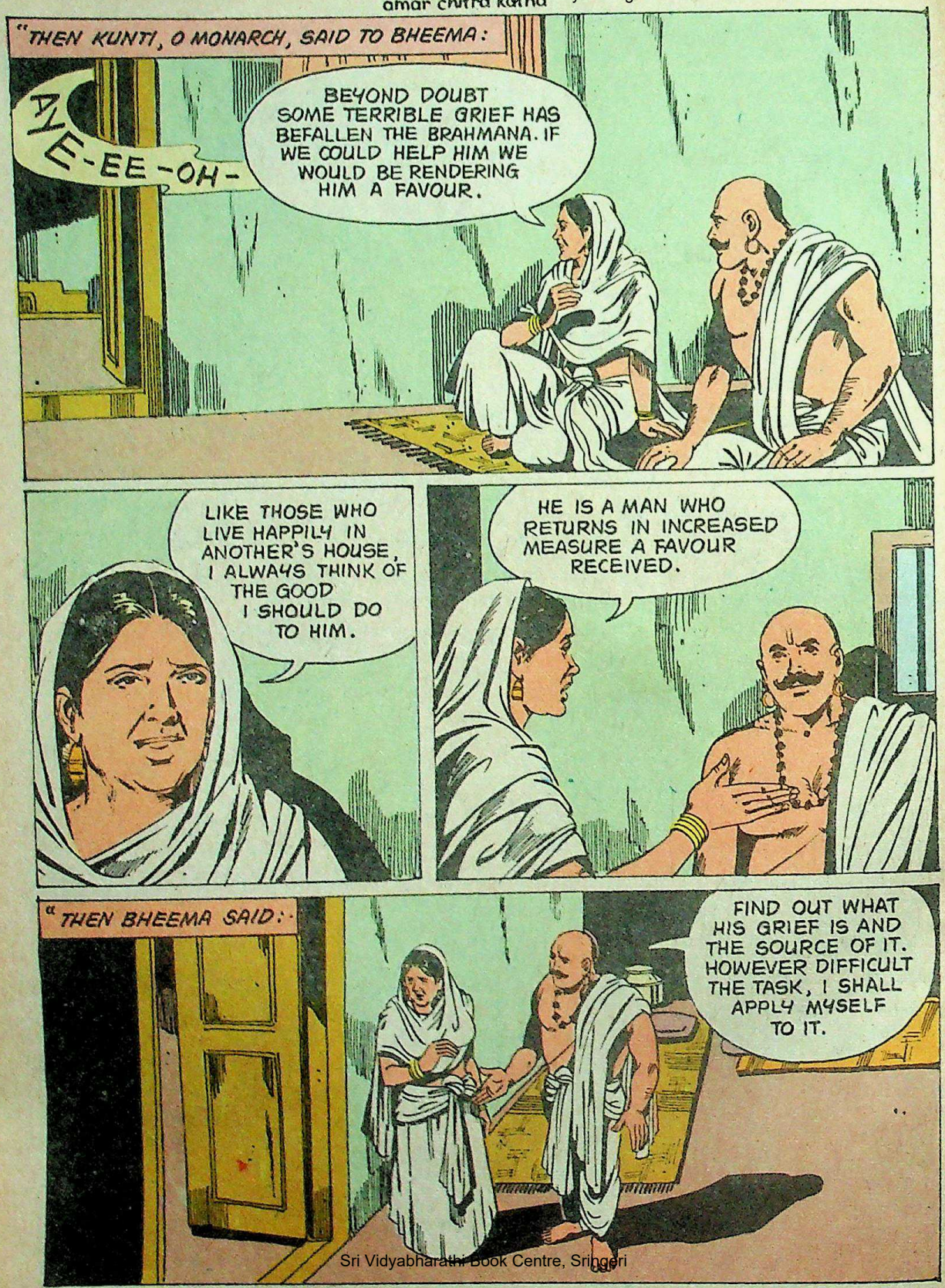

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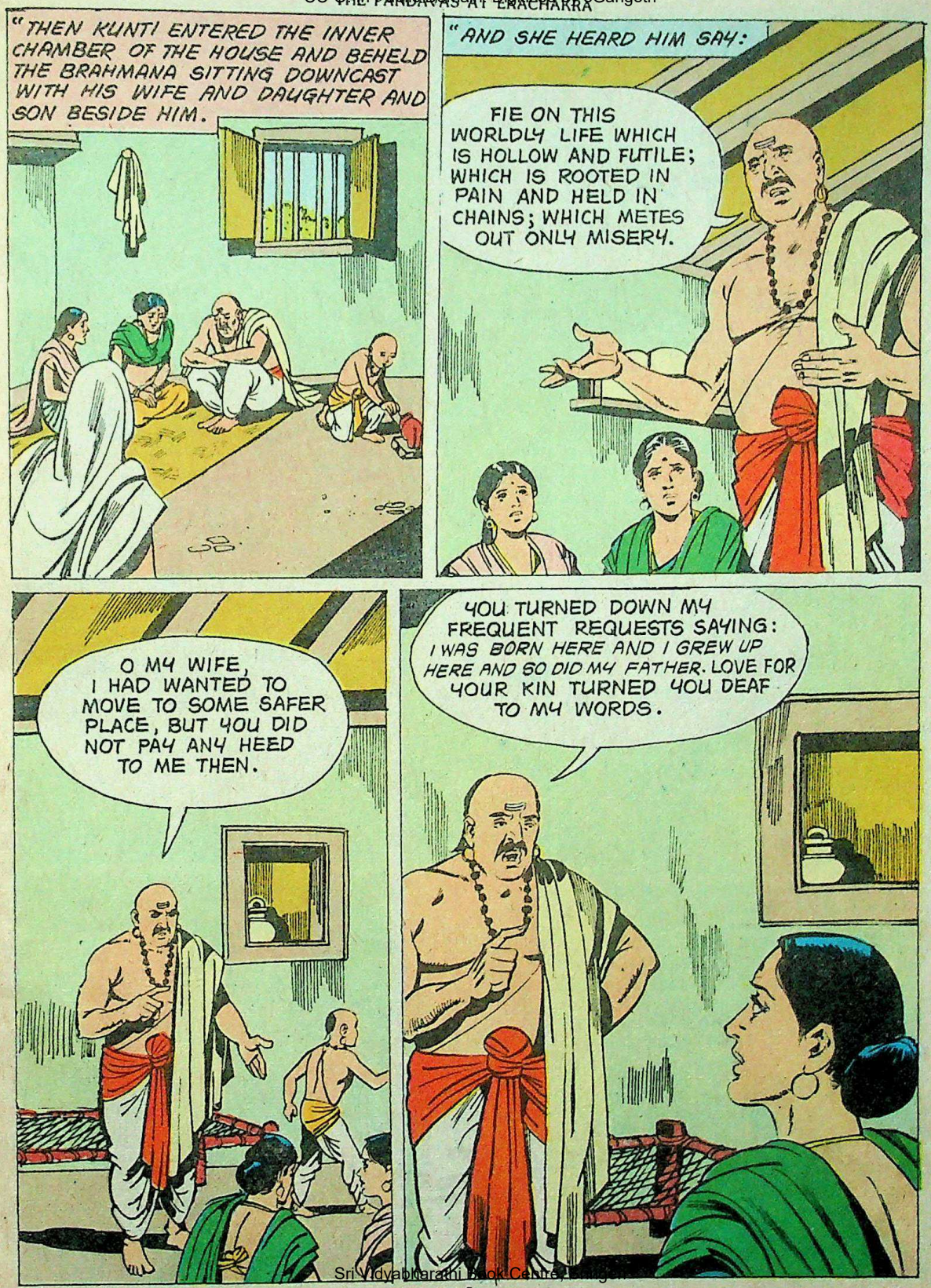

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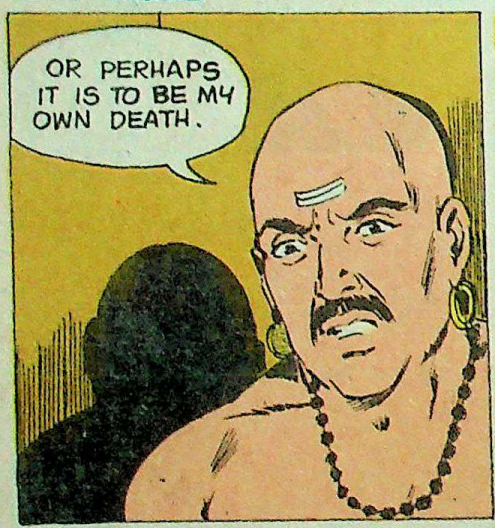

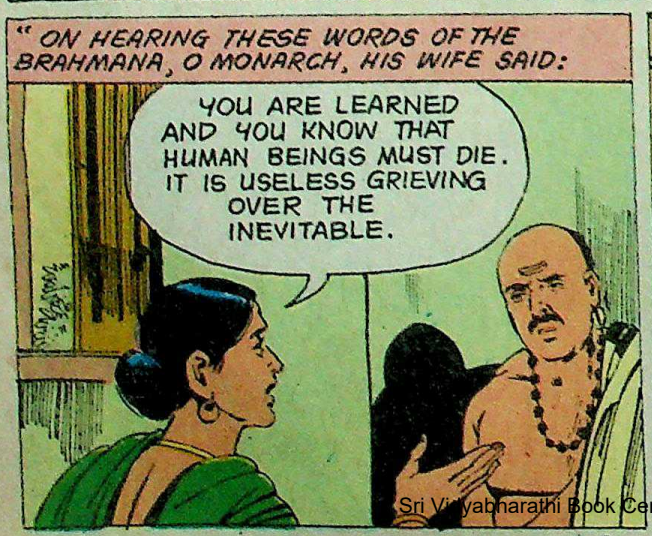

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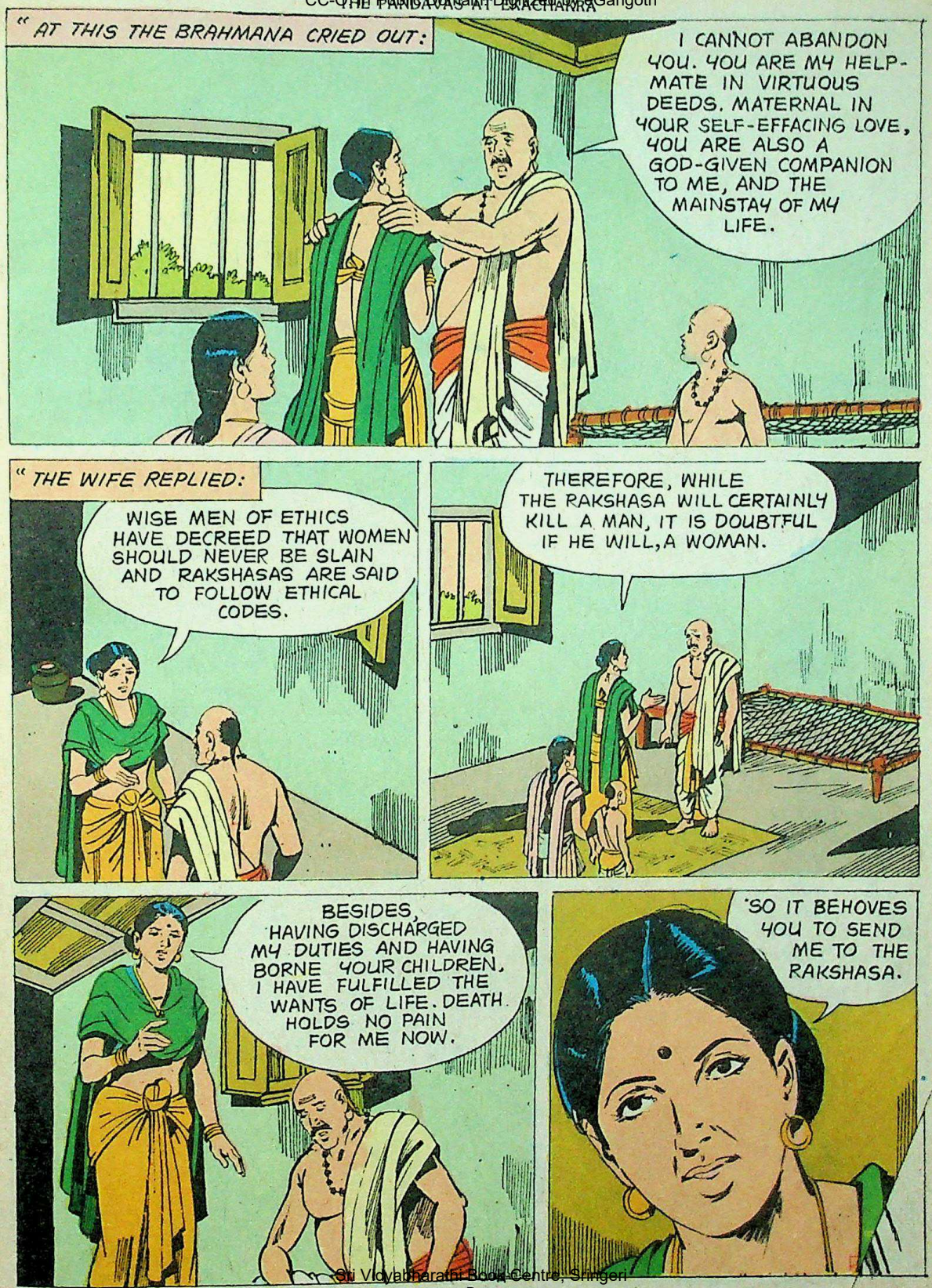

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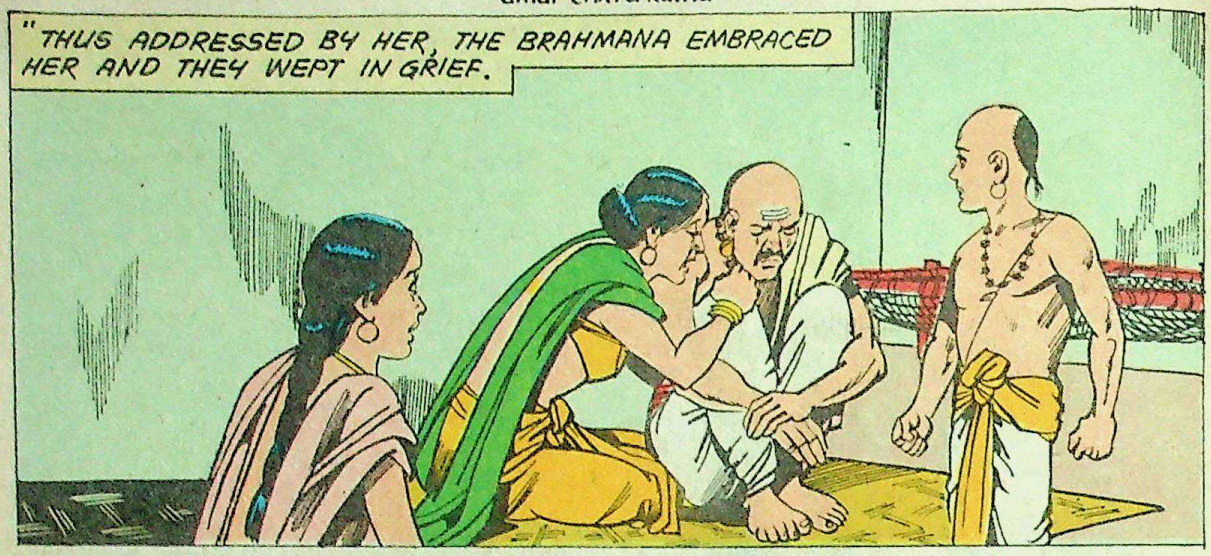

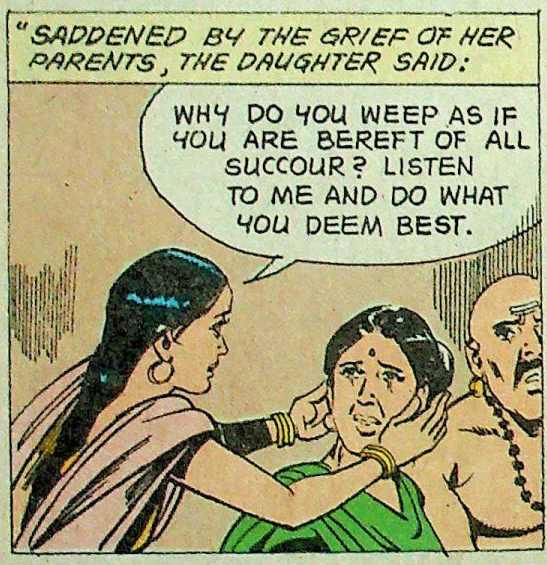

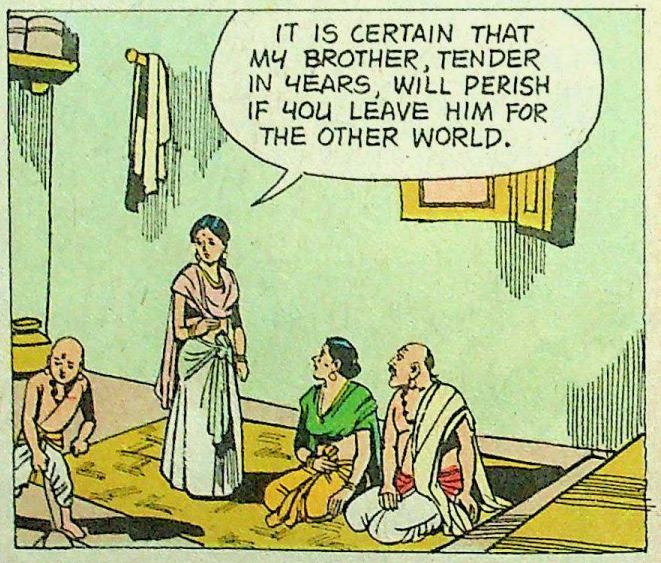

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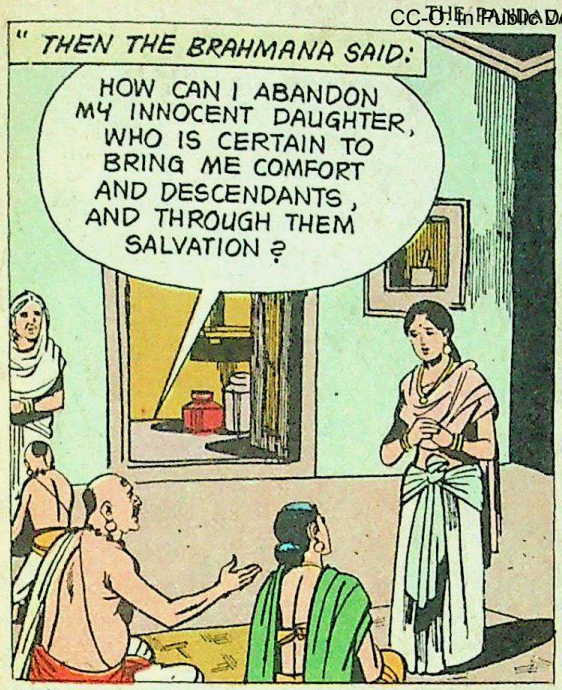

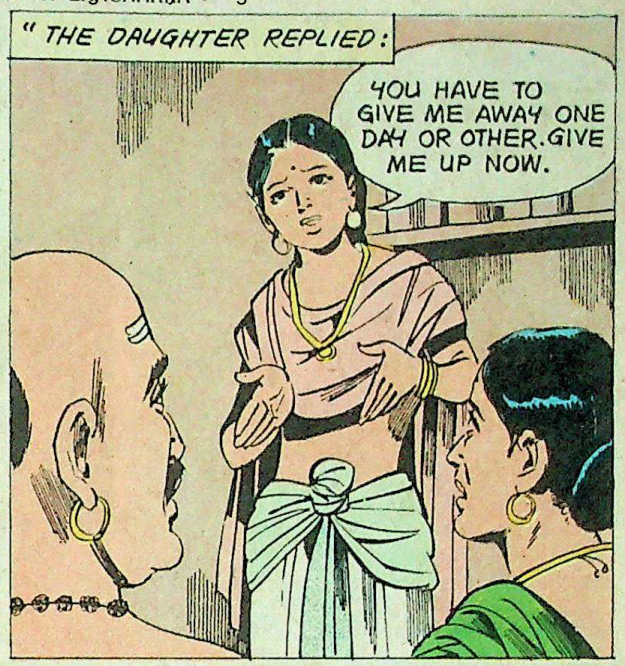

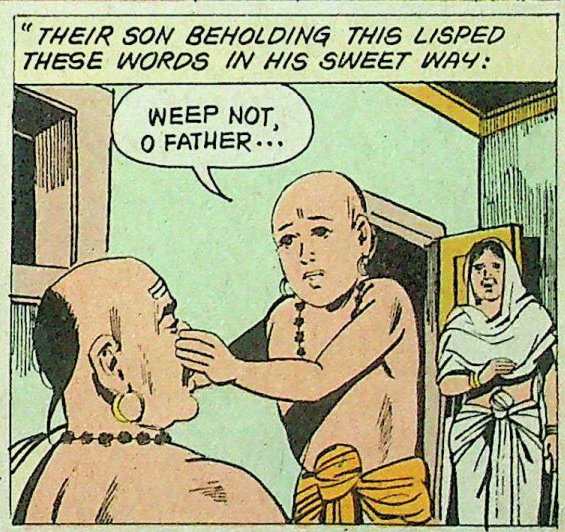

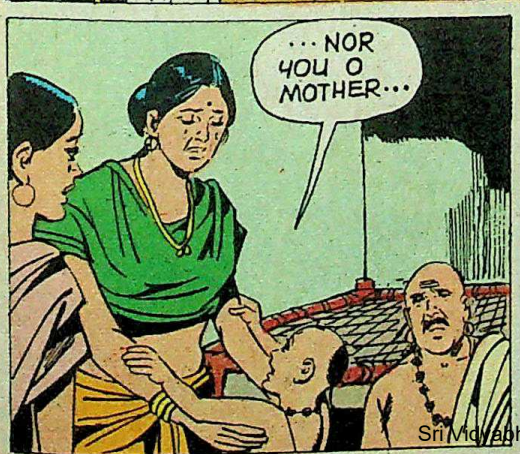

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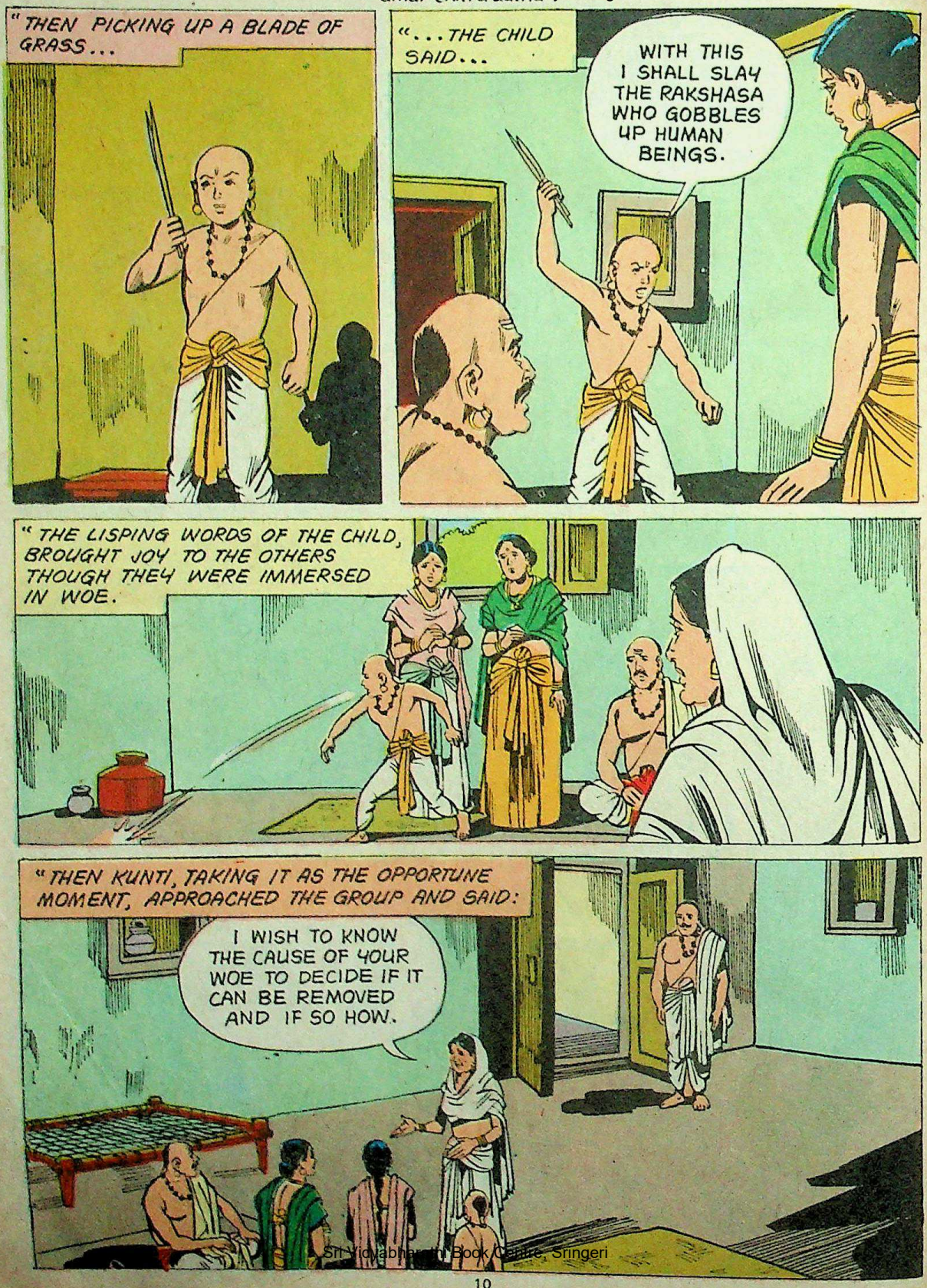

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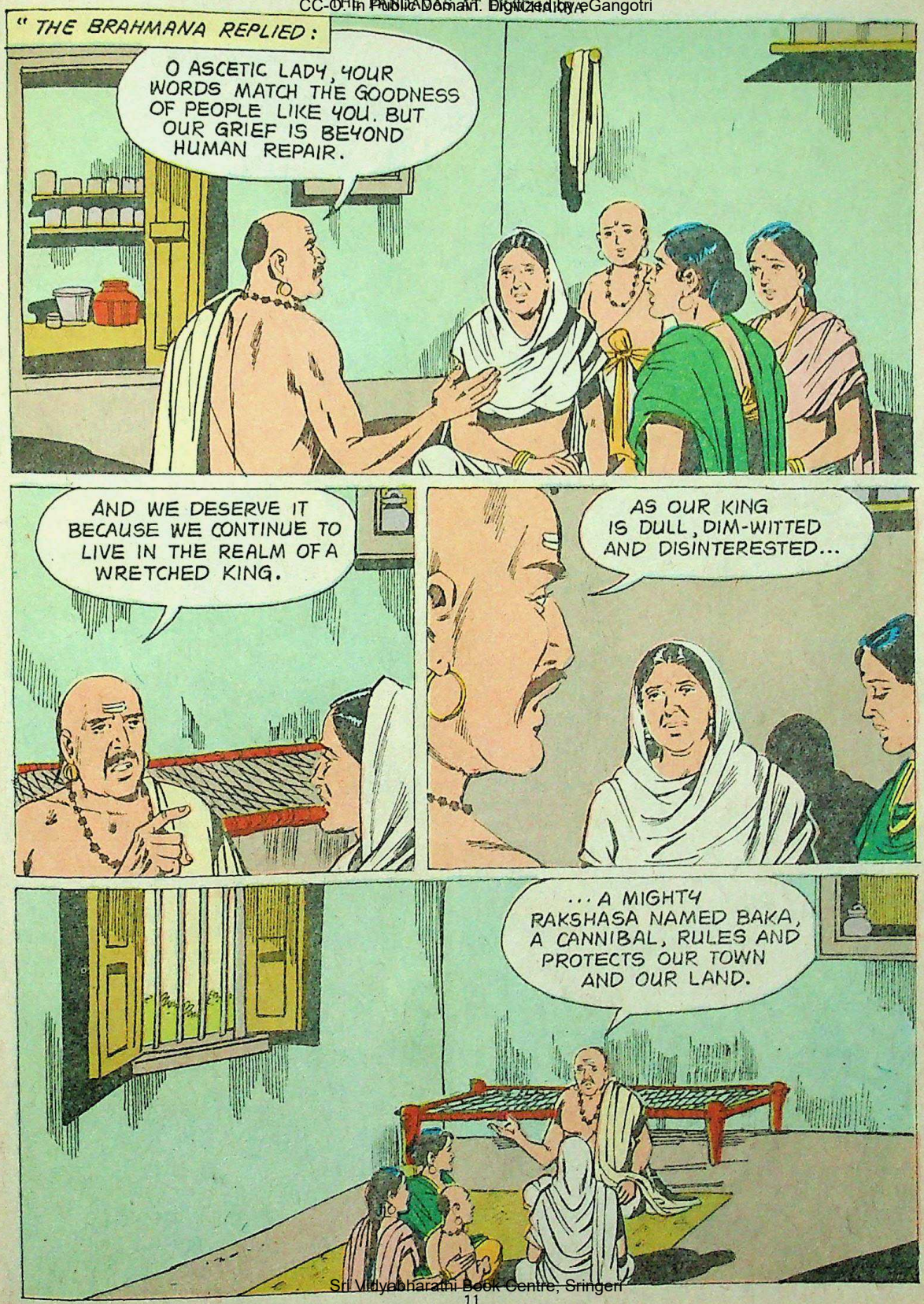

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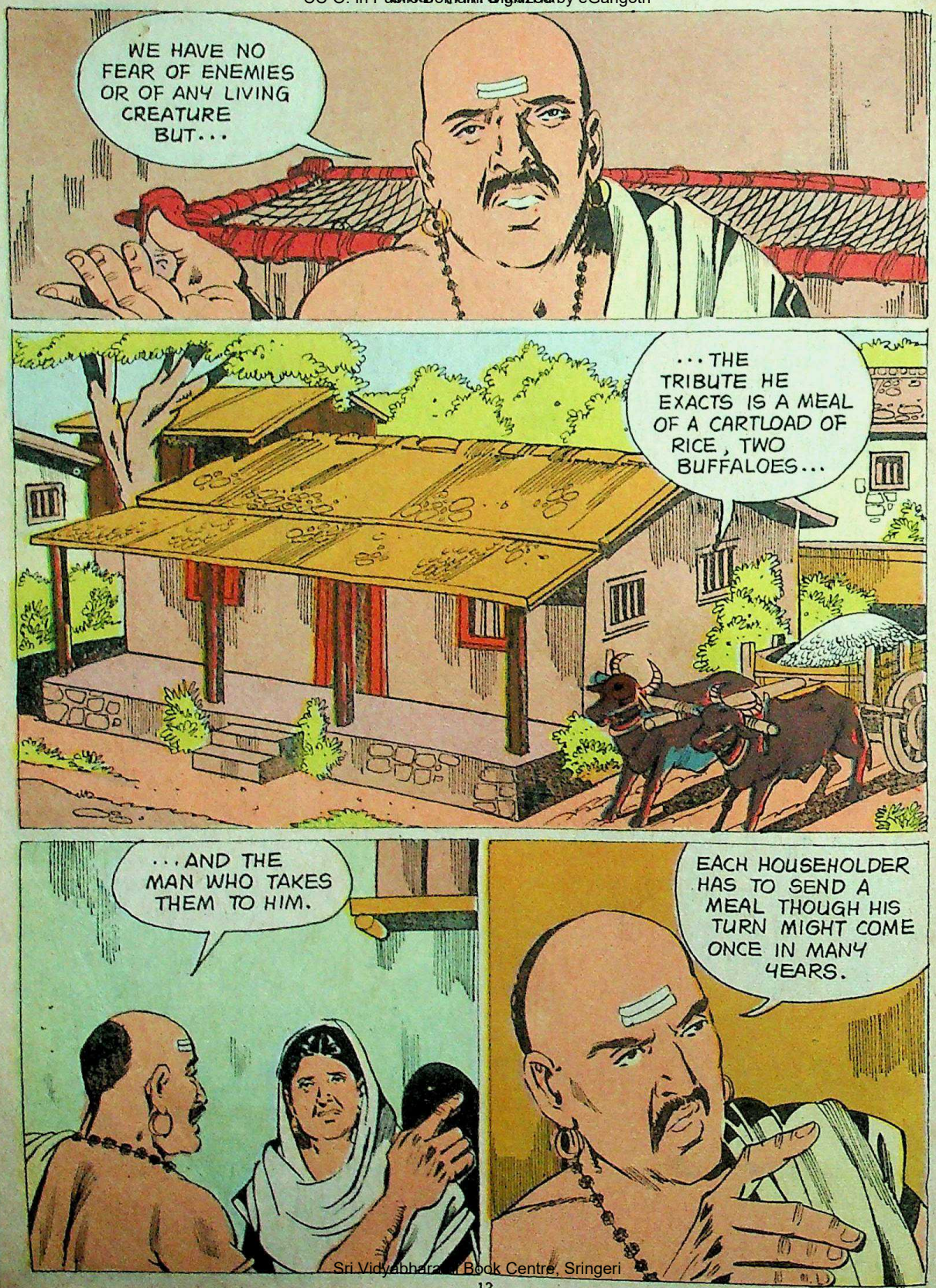

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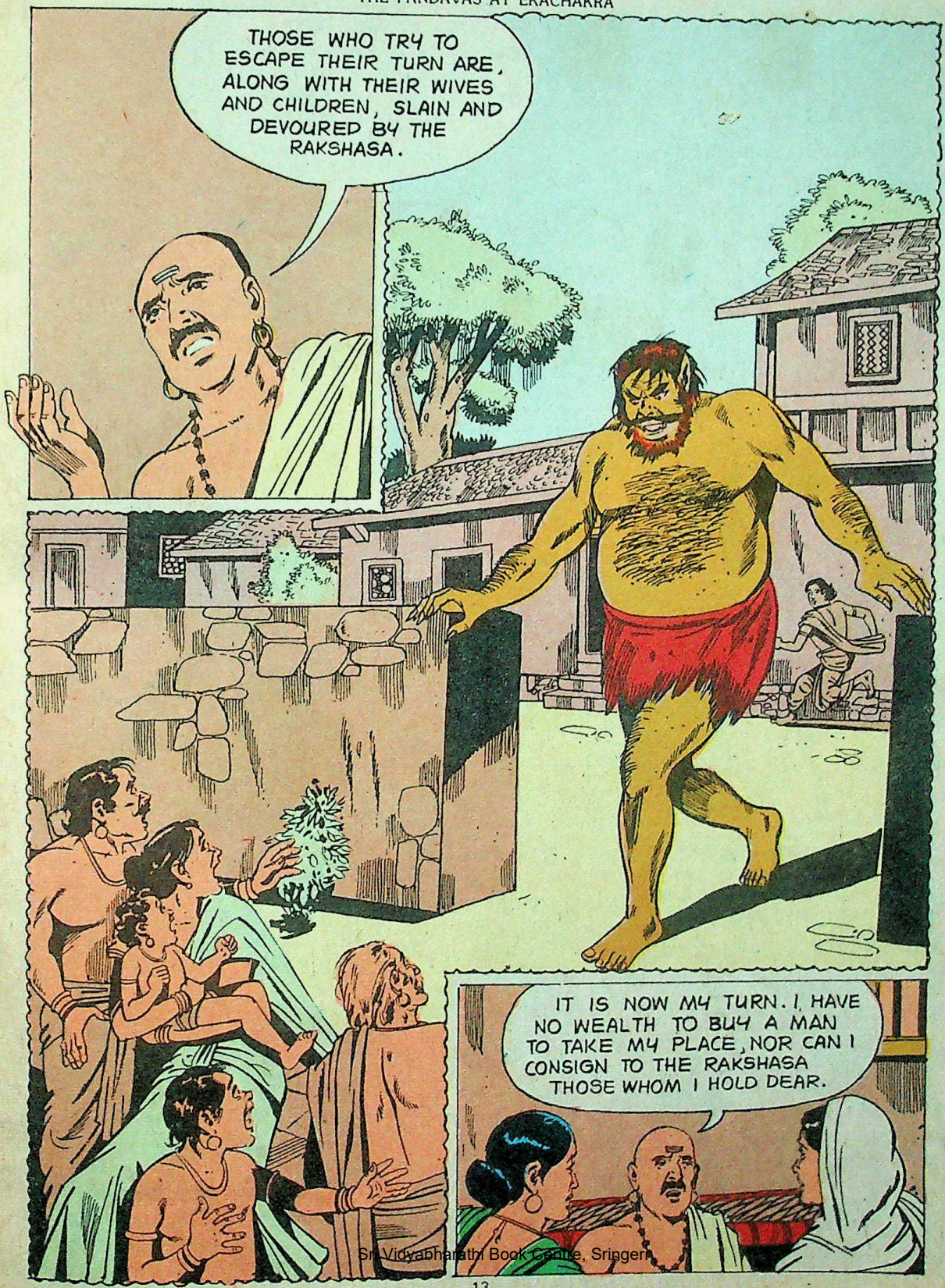

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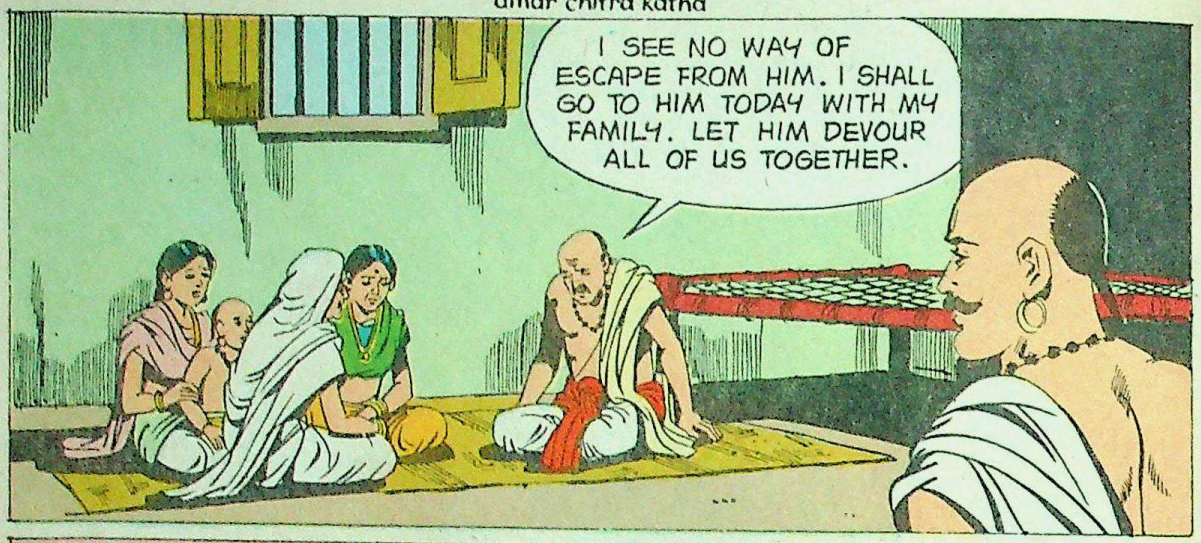

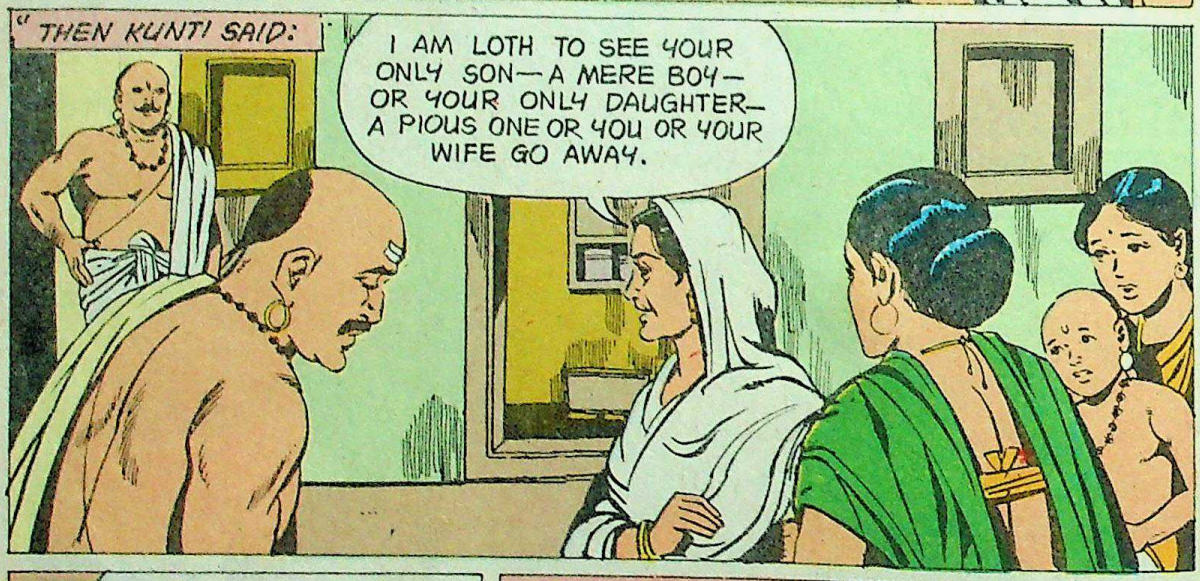

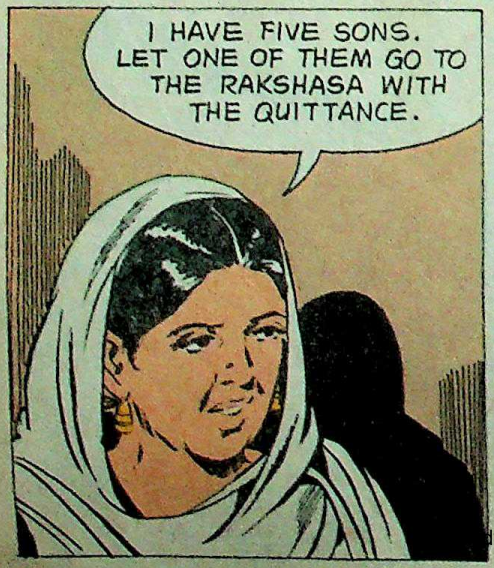

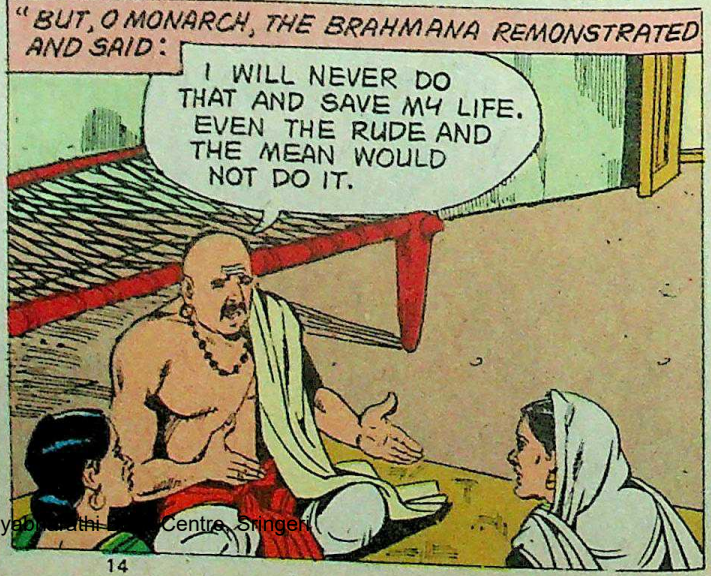

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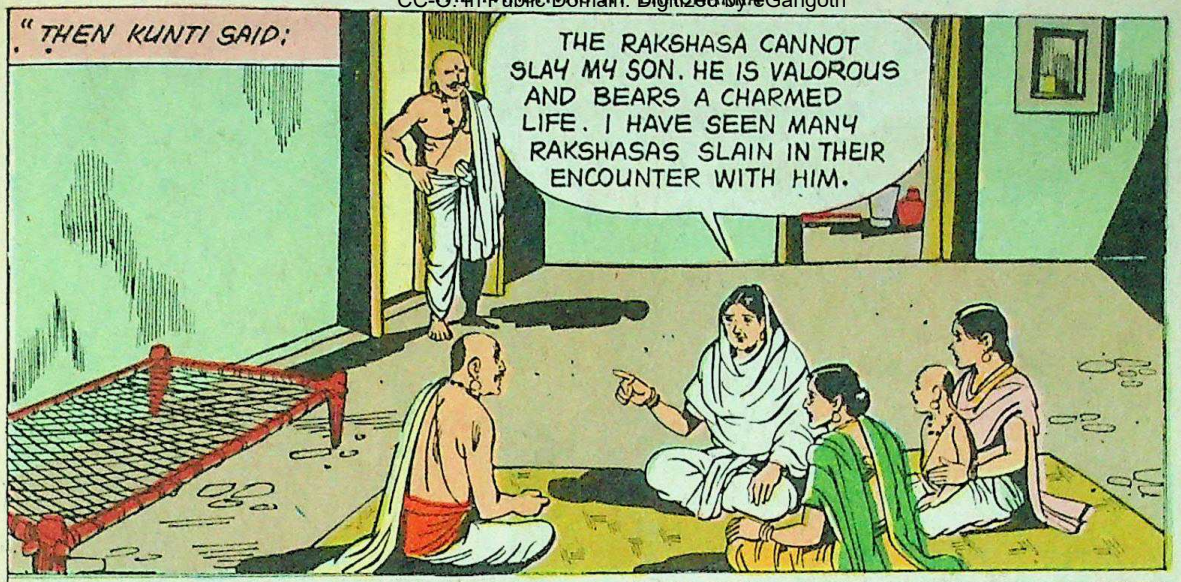

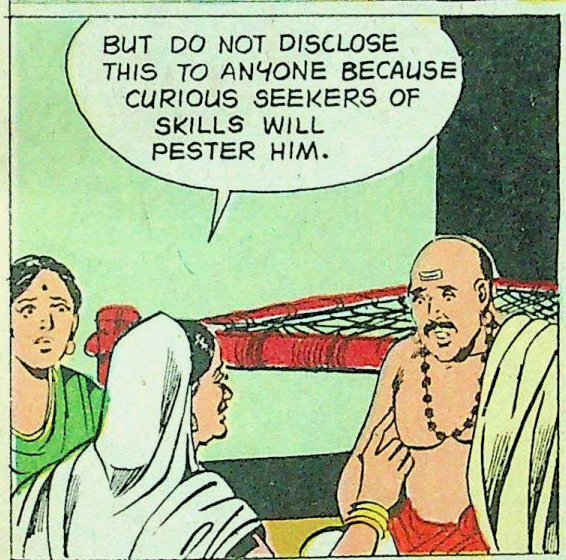

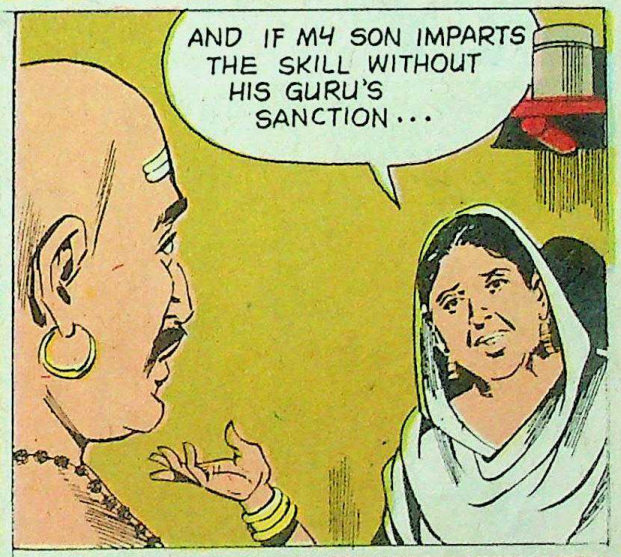

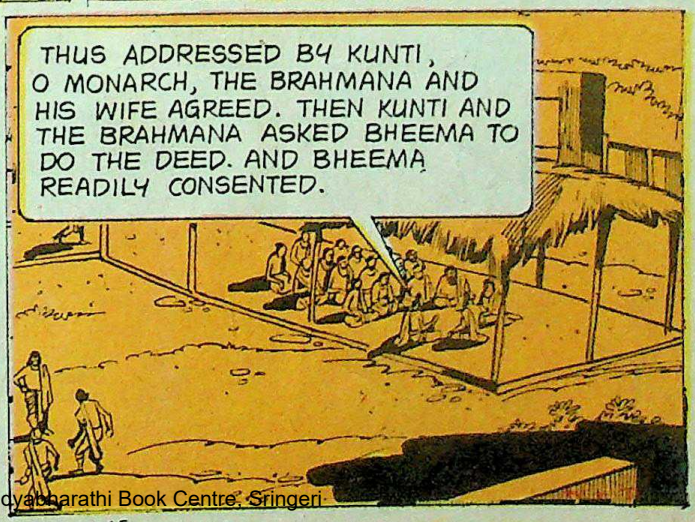

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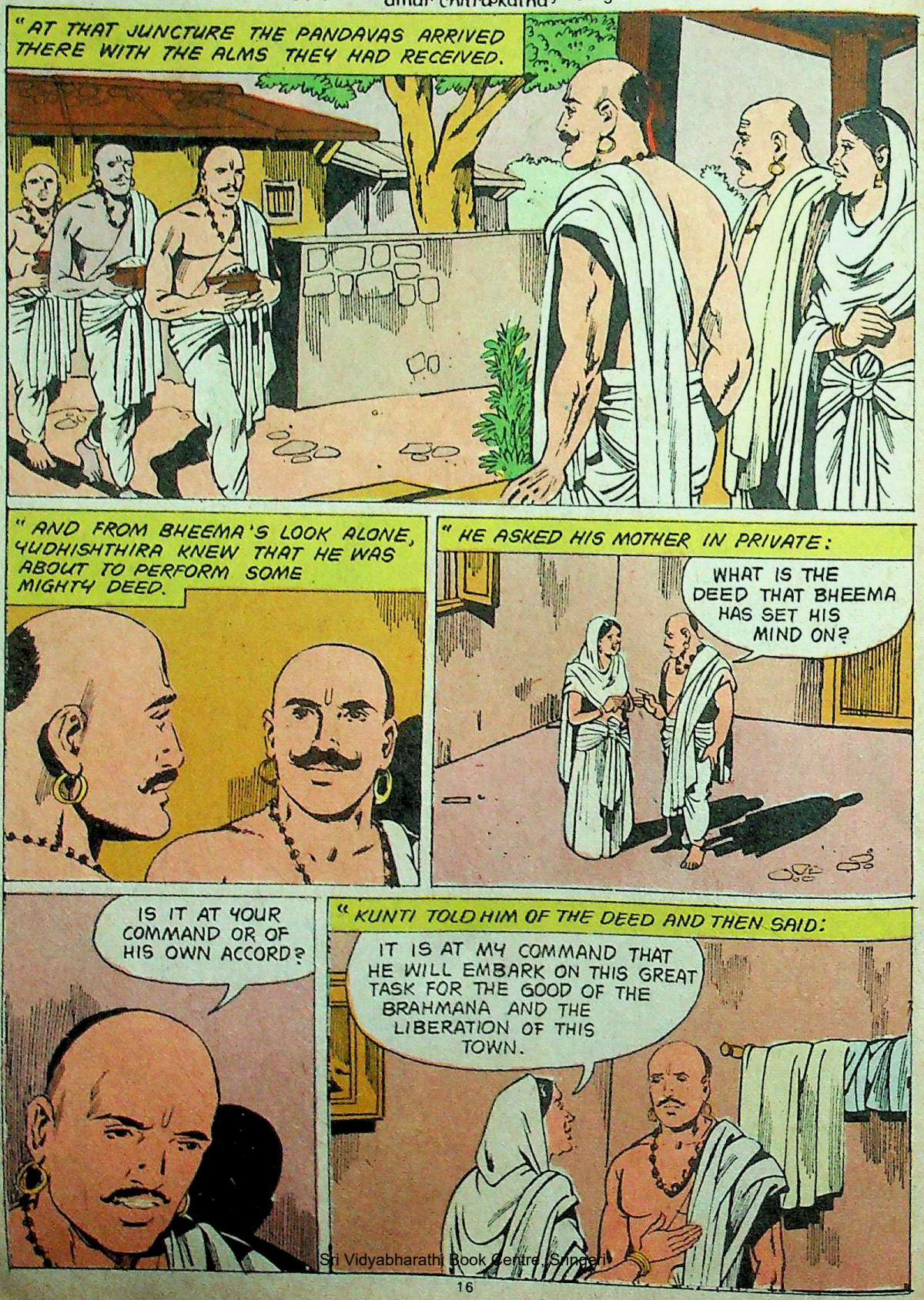

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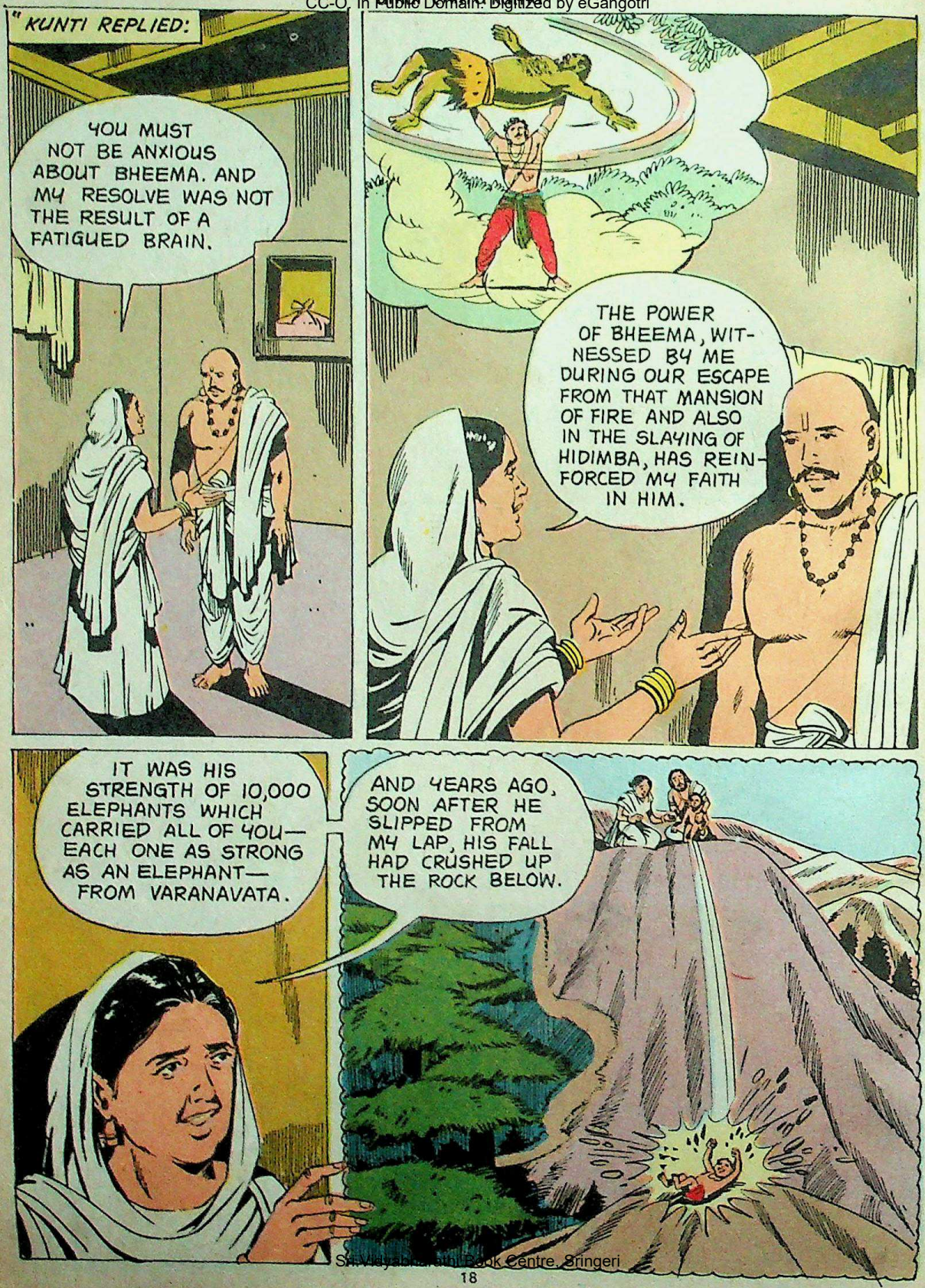

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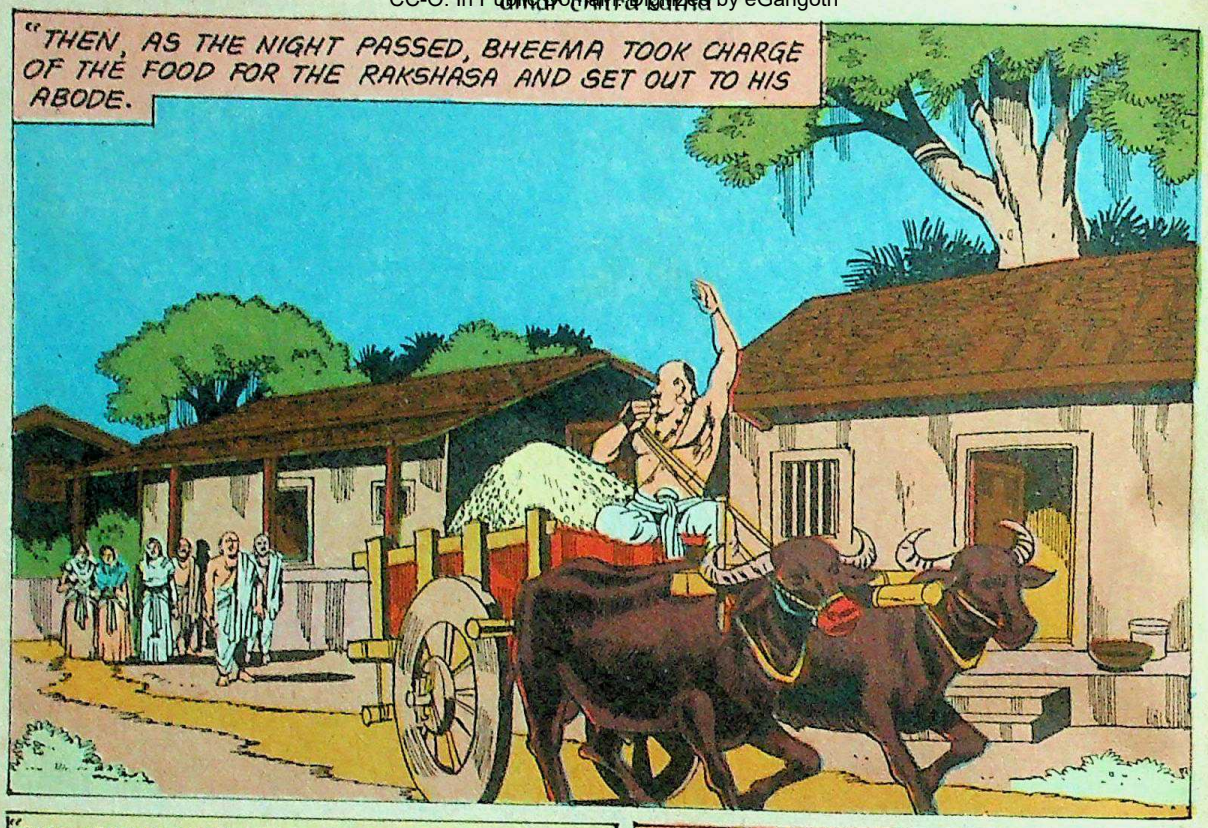

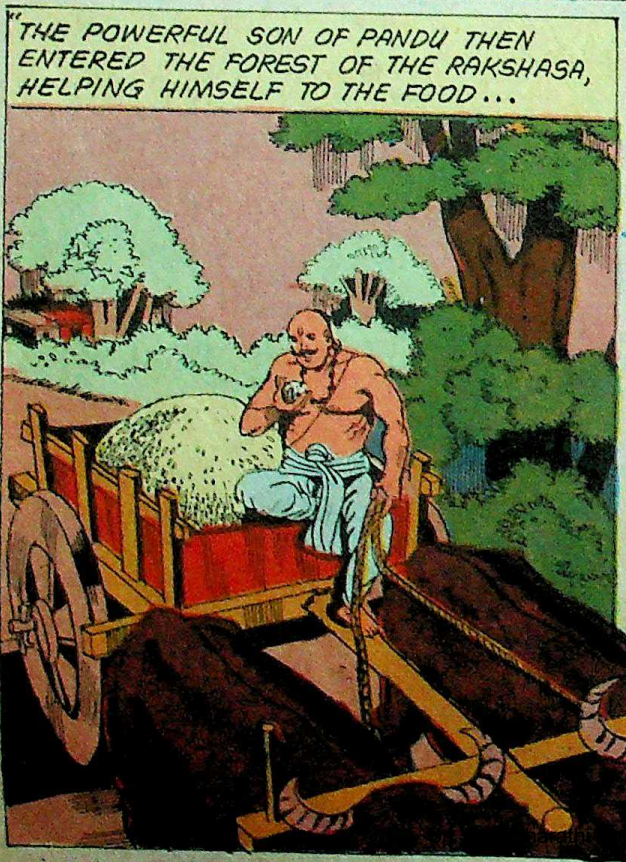

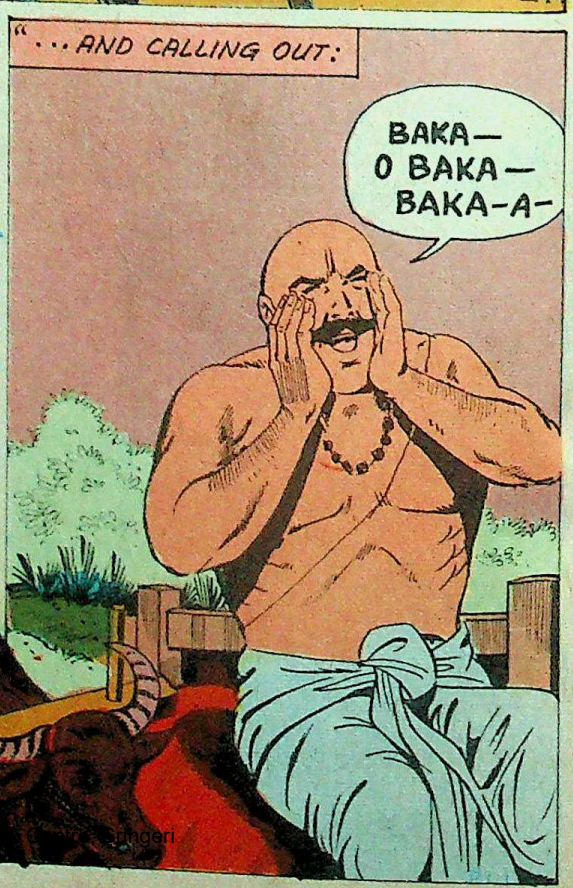

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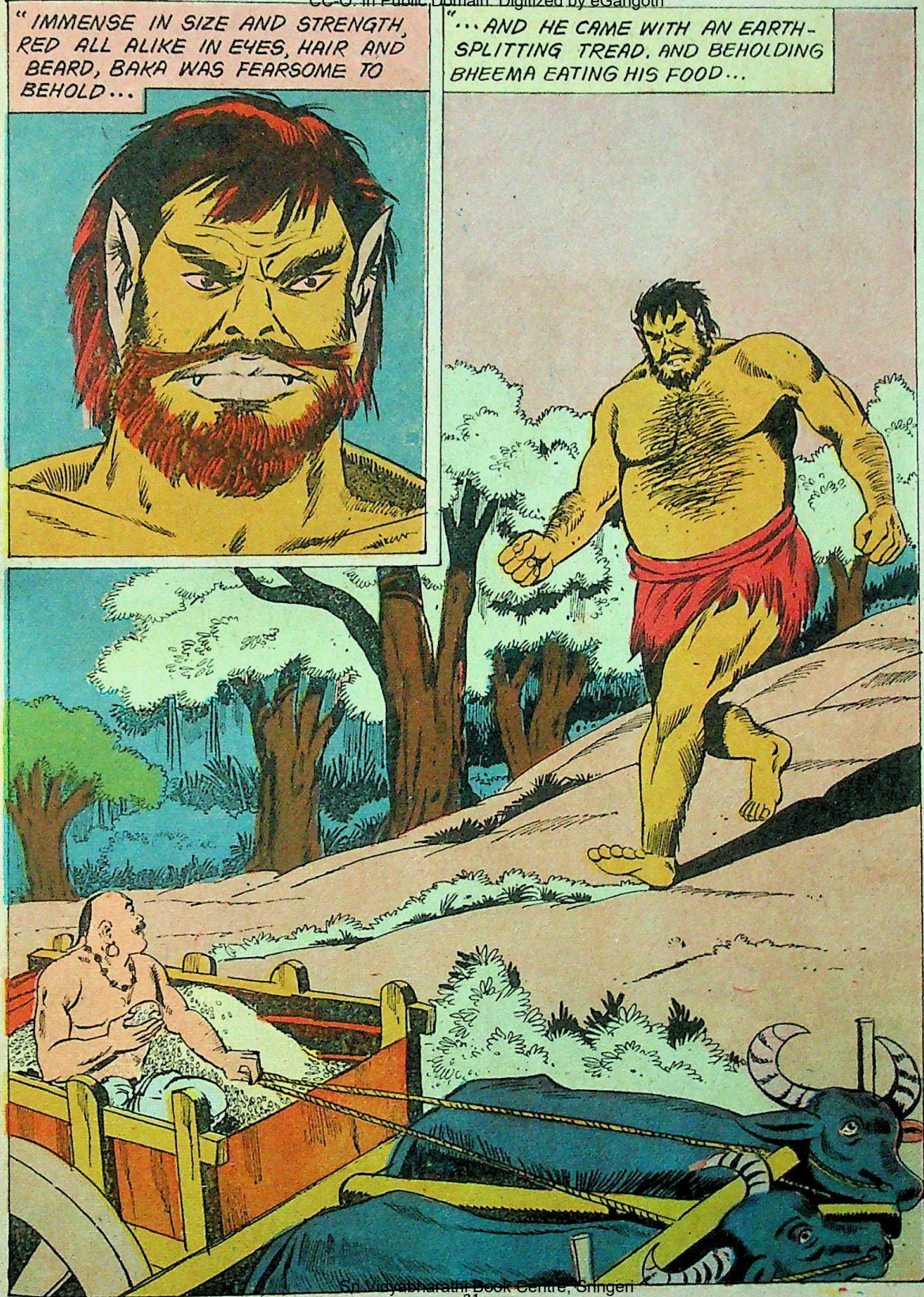

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"...THE RAKSHASA CAME UP IN FERVID FURY AND SAID:

WHO IS THIS VILLAIN EATING UP MY MEAL IN MY VERY PRESENCE AS IF HE IS KEEN TO BE SENT TO THE ABODE OF YAMA?

"BHEEMA, O MONARCH, ONLY SMILED IN DERISION...

"...AND CONTINUED TO EAT. BEHOLDING THIS...

"...THE CANNIBAL LET OUT A TERRIBLE ROAR...

E-EE-EE-EA

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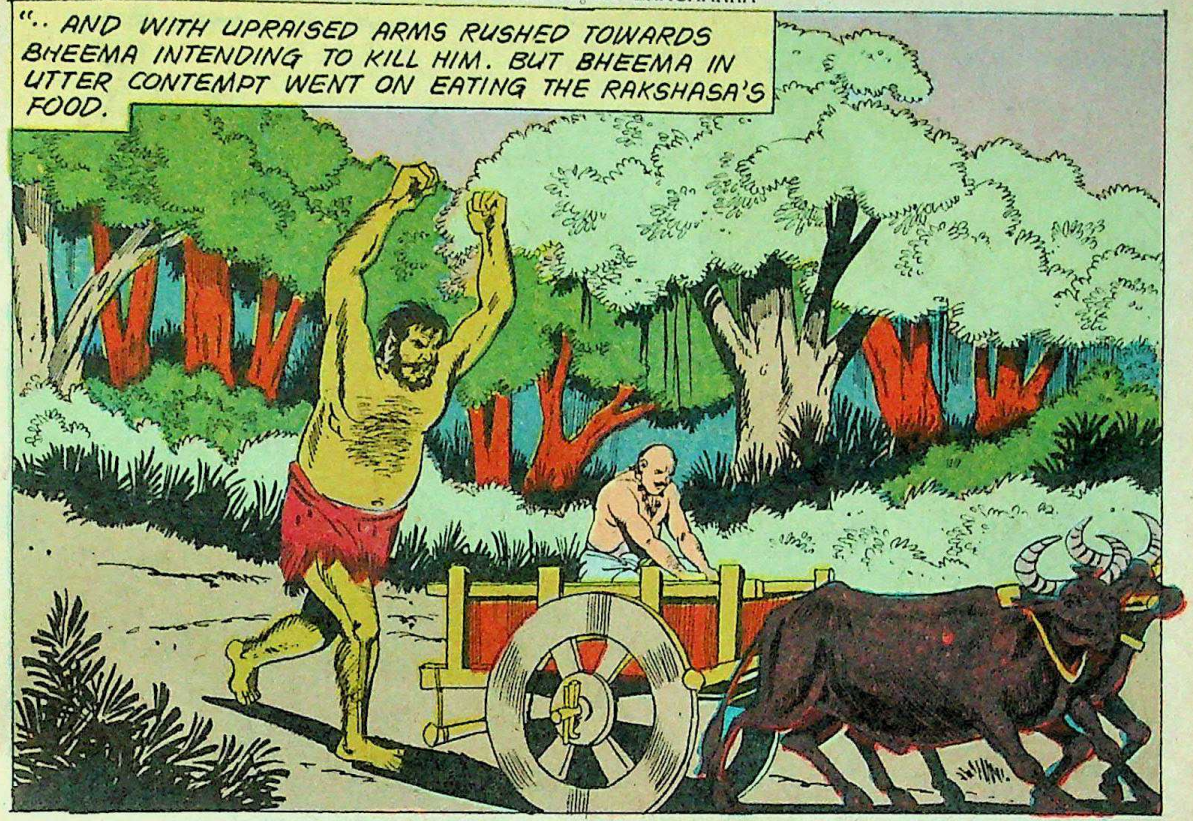

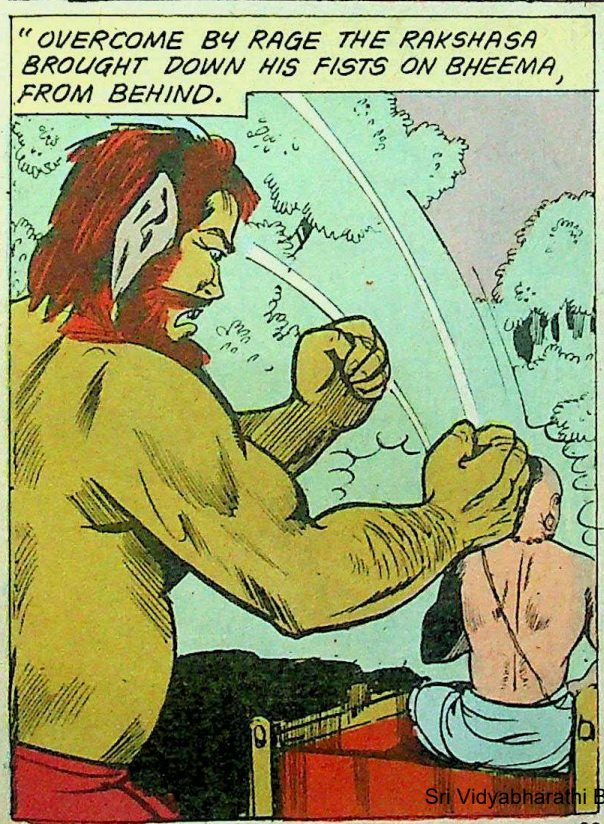

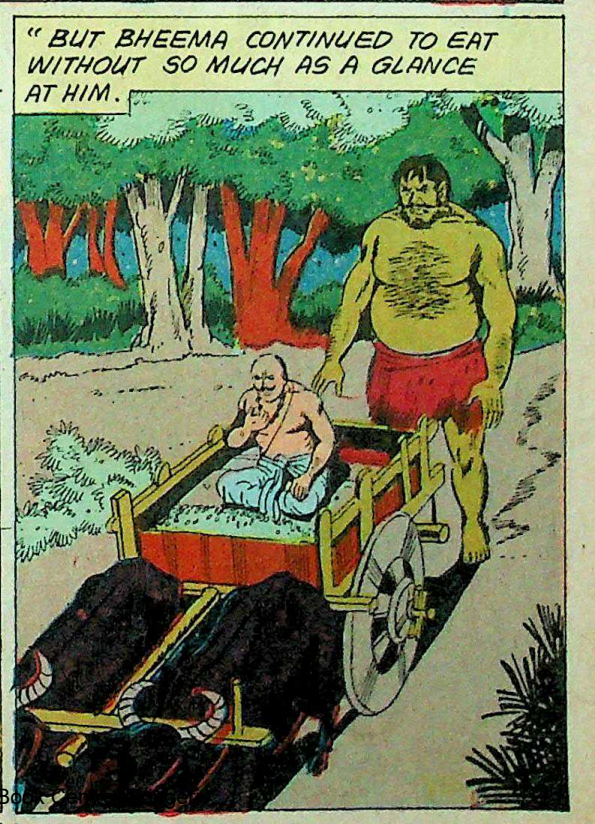

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"...AND HURLED IT BACK AT THE RAKSHASA.

"THEN, O MONARCH, THE RAKSHASA UPROOTED MANY MORE TREES AND HURLED THEM AT BHEEMA...

...AND BHEEMA SMOTE HIM WITH AS MANY IN RETURN. THAT TERRIBLE COMBAT BETWEEN THE PRINCE AND THE CANNIBAL RAGED SO FIERCE THAT THE FOREST AROUND WAS SOON DENUDED OF TREES.

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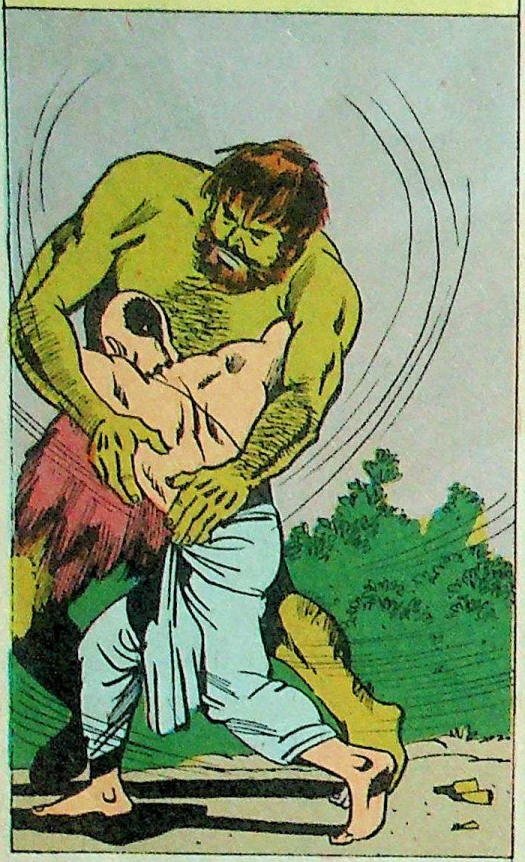
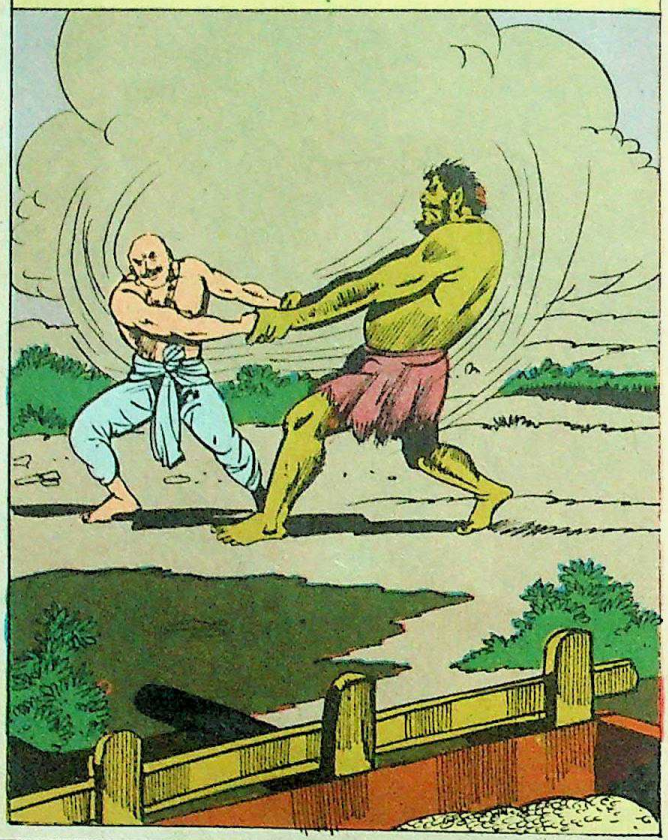
"THEN THE RAKSHASA SPRANG UPON BHEEMA AND SEIZED HIM. THE MIGHTY HERO ALSO HAD HIM IN HIS CLUTCHES.



"AND HE BEGAN DRAGGING HIM VIOLENTLY. THE CANNIBAL IN TURN PITTED HIS FORCE AGAINST THAT OF BHEEMA. THE VERY EARTH SEEMED TO TREMBLE UNDER THE FORCE UNLEASHED BY THE TWO.



" THEN BEHOLDING THAT THE CANNIBAL WAS OVERCOME BY FATIGUE, BHEEMA LAID HIM LOW AND PRESSED HIM DOWN WITH HIS KNEES.

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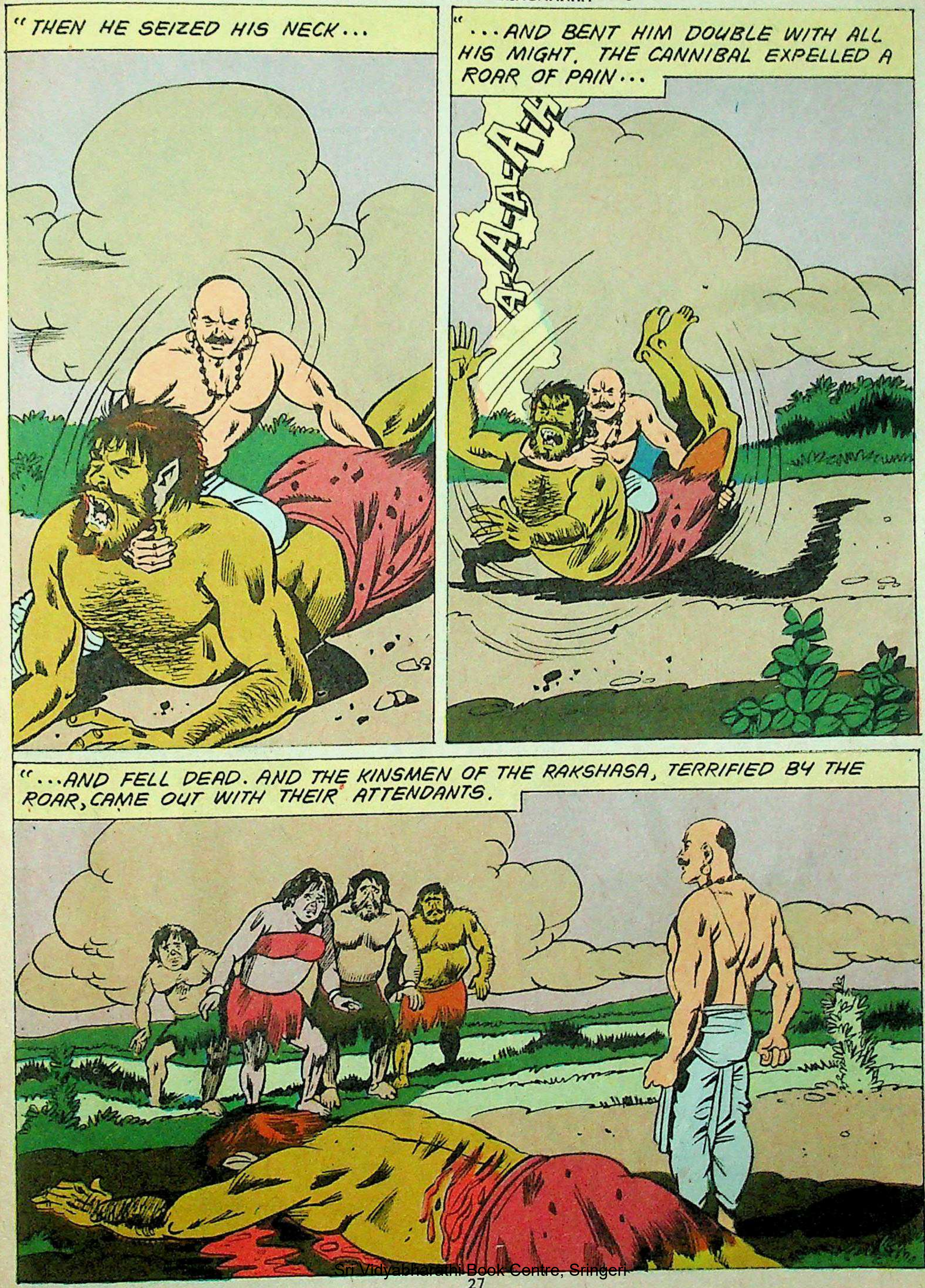

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"WHEN BHEEMA SAW THE TERROR-STRUCK GROUP, HE COMFORTED THEM AND SAID:

NEVER SHALL YOU KILL A HUMAN BEING. IF YOU DO, THEN YOU TOO WILL BE SLAIN LIKE BAKA.

"THE RAKSHASAS CONSENTED, O MONARCH, TO ABIDE BY THE COMMANDMENTS OF BHEEMA. THEN BHEEMA CARRIED THE LIFELESS CANNIBAL ...

"...TO THE TOWN GATES, DEPOSITED HIM THERE UNOBSERVED BY ANYONE...

"...AND RETURNED TO THE BRAHMANA'S HOUSE.

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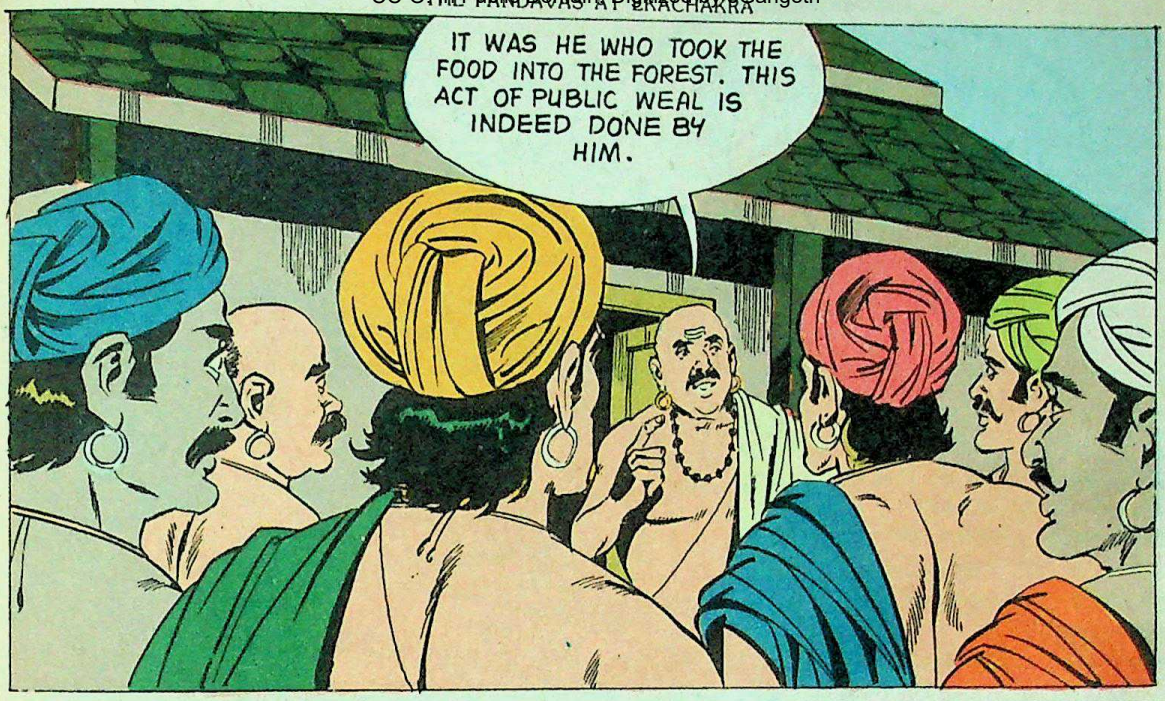

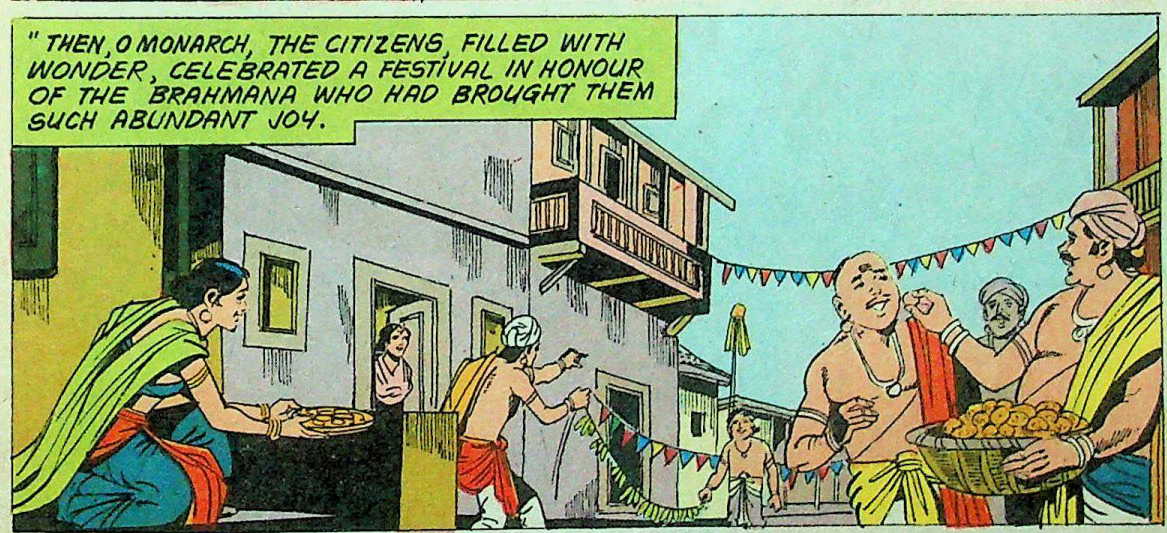

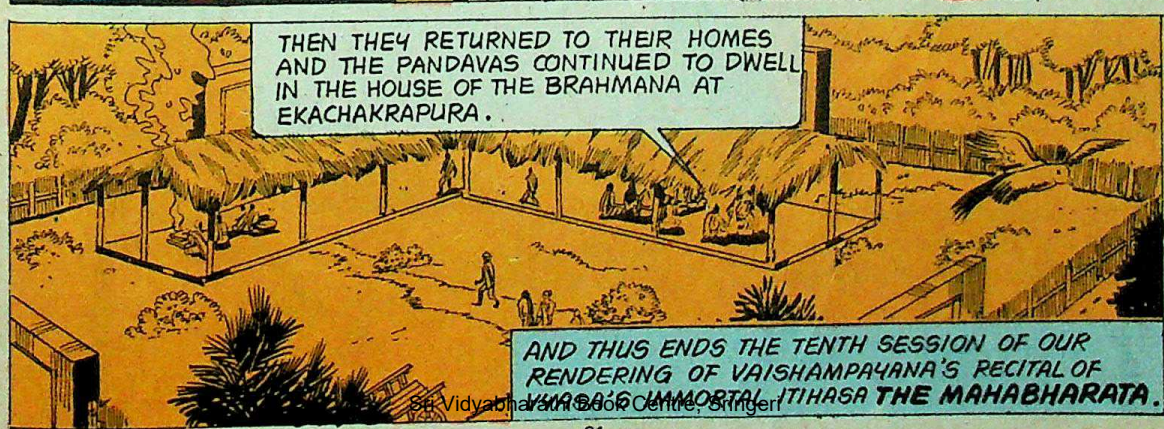

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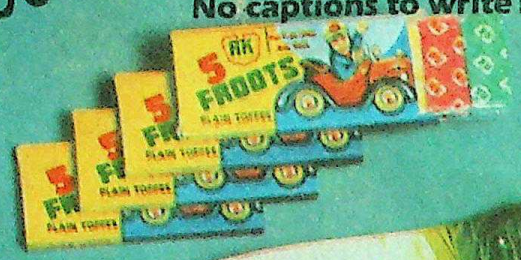
HURRY KIDS!

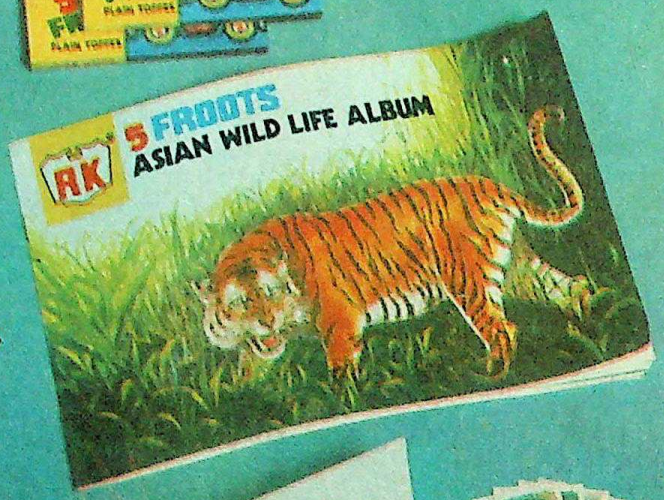
GET AN ATTRACTIVE 'ASIAN WILD LIFE ALBUM' AND 100 'FOLD UP LETTERS' - FREE.

No entry fee!
No captions to write!

All you have to do is send us 4 empty 5 Froots packs along with a Re.1 postage stamp inside the envelope...



... And, we will send you an attractive 'Asian Wild life Album' –

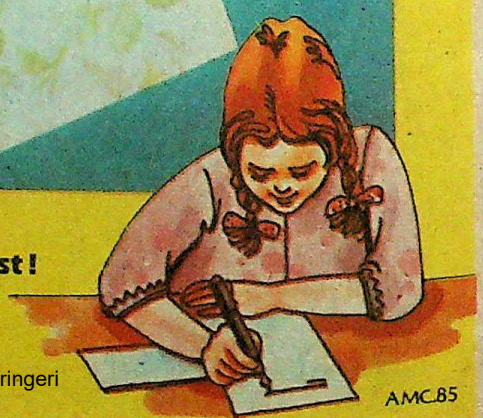


Complete the album with 'Animal Picture Cards' available in every 5 Froots pack. And receive 100 'Fold Up Letters' printed with your name and address. Plus your album too!

Animal Picture Cards' available in every 5 Froots pack.

What could be better than eating more and more of your favourite 5 Froots.

Much easier than a contest!



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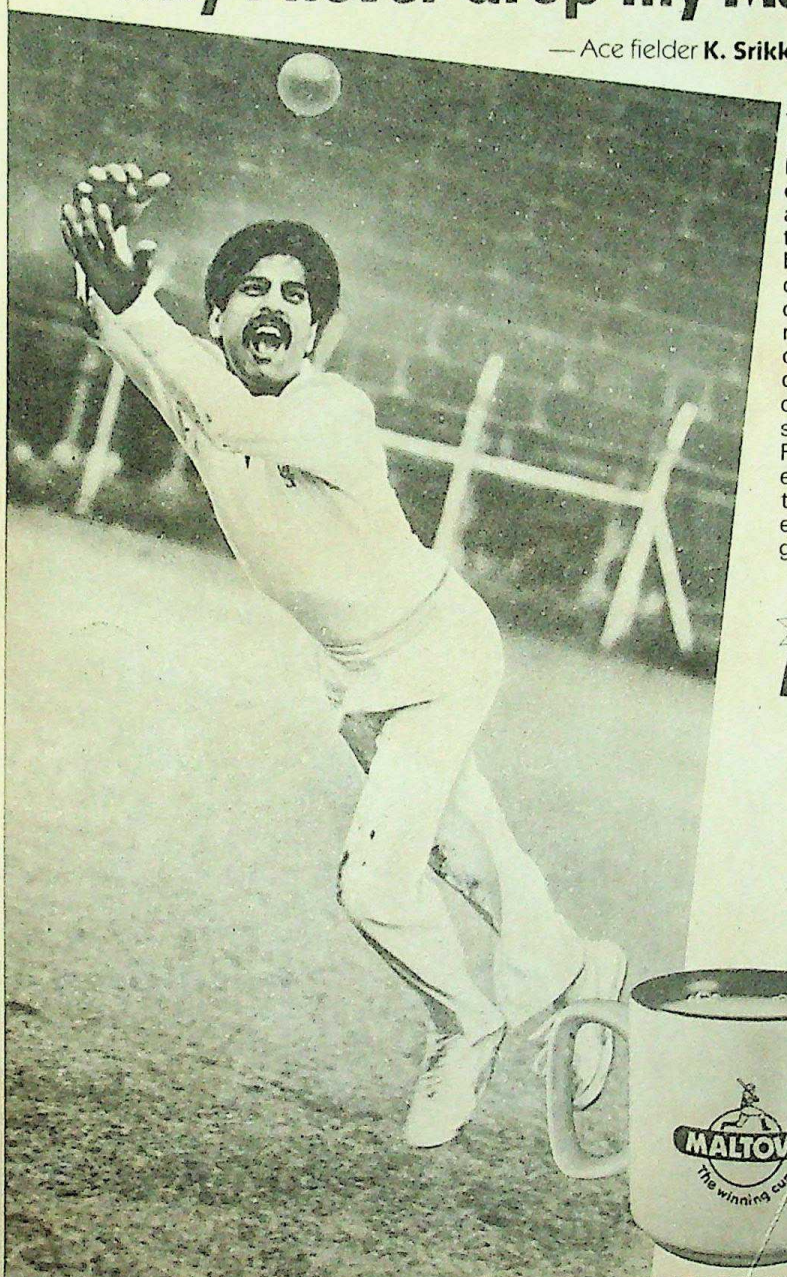
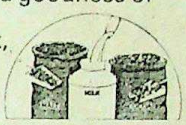
"To make those split-second catches you've got to be at the ready. That's why I never drop my Maltova!"

— Ace fielder **K. Srikkanth** on his amazing agility.



"My morning begins with a mug of hot, delicious Maltova. It's part of my line of attack! Gives me the alertness and energy I need to open the innings with a bang. Maltova is the only drink that has the concentrated goodness of malt, fresh creamy milk, delicious cocoa and sugar.



For the health, strength and energy I need — on or off the field. Drink Maltova everyday, twice a day and grow into a champion."

NEW

MALTOVA®

The winning combination of health, strength and energy

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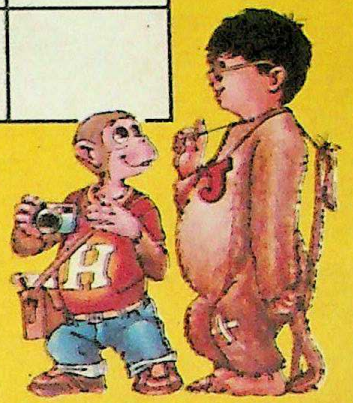
TIME-TABLE

DAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MON								
TUE								
WED								
THU								
FRI								
SAT								



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